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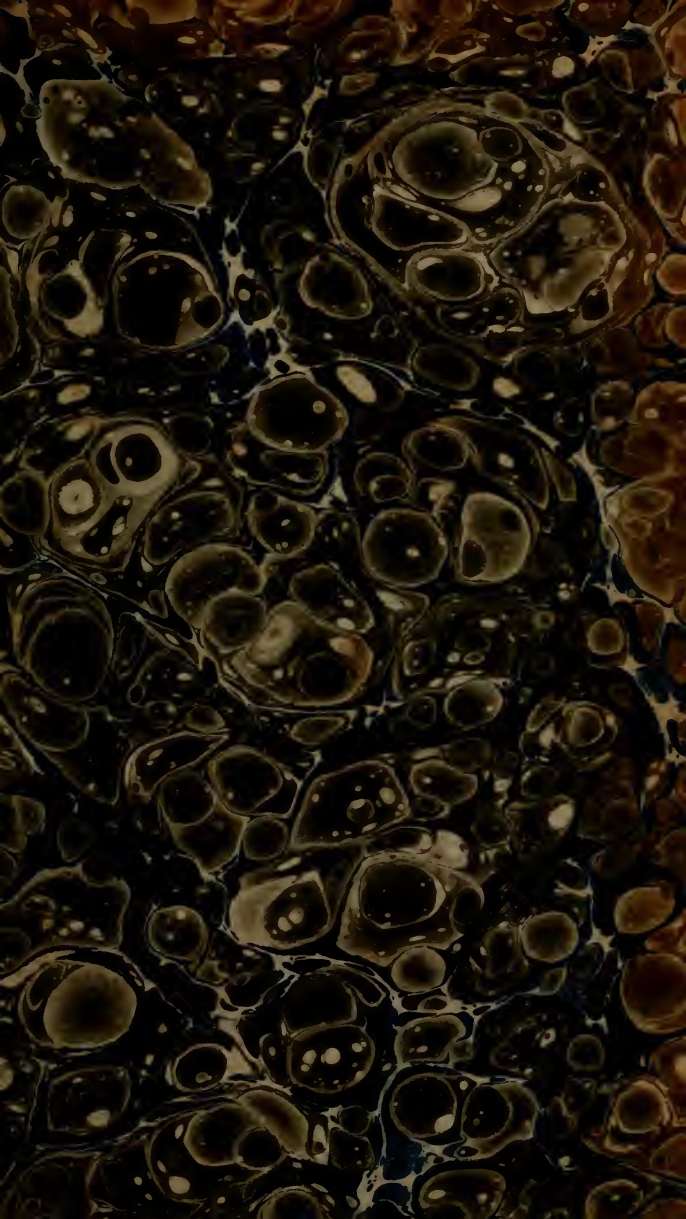

Romantic Tales,

BY

M. G. LEWIS,

Author of the Monk, Adelgitha, &c.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

—" Ah! happy he, who thus in magic themes
O'er worlds bewitched in early rapture dreams,
Where wild Enchantment waves her potent wand,
And Fancy's beauties fill her fairy land."—

CRABBE.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

CONTAINING

THE ANACONDA.
THE DYING BRIDE.
THE FOUR FACARDINS, PART I.

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THE ANACONDA,

AN EAST-INDIAN TALE.

"As those we love decay, we die in part;
String after string is severed from the heart,
Till lengthened life, at last but breathing clay,
Without one sigh is glad to fall away.
Unhappy they, who latest meet the blow,
Condemned to weep o'er many a Friend laid low,
Led slowly on from partial death to death,
Till dying, all, they can resign, is breath."

THOMSON.

1003498

THE ANACONDA.

"She speaks poniards, and every word stabs."

Much Ado about Nothing.

"THE Lord in heaven forbid!" exclaimed the old man, while every limb was convulsed with horror—the blood forsook his cheeks, and he clasped his hands in agony: "but the thing is impossible!" he resumed, after a few moments past in reflection, "absolutely impossible!—What! Everard? a boy, whose childhood was past under my own roof, under my very eye?.... whose manners are so mild.... who was ever so gentle, so grateful, so kind.... whose heart I know as well as I do my own.... Bless my soul, Sister Milman, what a fright you have given me! But it's no great matter now, for when I

reflect upon this history of yours, I see clearly that the thing is quite impossible, and so there's an end of it."—

—" Now was there ever anything so provoking! Brother, Brother, let me tell you, that at your time of life it is quite a shame to suffer yourself to be so blinded by prejudice—His childhood was past under your roof, forsooth! But where did he pass his *youth*, I should be glad to know? why, among tigers and alligators that swallow up poor dear little children at a mouthful, and great ugly black-a-moor monsters, who eat nothing but human flesh, heaven bless us! and where's the great wonder, that living in such graceless company, Everard should have picked up some of their bloody tricks? Nay, Brother, to tell you a bit of my mind, for my own part I always suspected, that there was something awkward in the manner, by which he came by such a sight of money; though to be sure I never imagined, that the business was half so bad as it proves to be."—

—" Proves to be, Sister! proves to be, in-

deed? Let me remind you, that you have proved nothing, though God knows you have asserted enough to make every hair on my head stand an end: and as to his fortune, I make no doubt, that Everard can give as satisfactory an account of his making it, as the honestest man within the bills of mortality."—

—"I should be glad to know then, why he so obstinately refuses to give any account at all? It's above a year, since he returned from the East Indies, and yet there isn't a human being a bit better informed on the subject, than we were on the first day of his landing; though I'm sure, it's not for want of asking, for many and many a good hour have I past in pumping, and pumping, and yet here do I sit at this moment no whit the wiser! He always puts on such a solemn look, and takes the first opportunity of turning the conversation to something else: nay, the other day when I wouldn't be fobbed off with a cock and a bull story about heaven knows what, and put the question home to him in so many words,

—"By what means did you, Everard Brooke, get so much money?"—he turned his back plump upon me, and stalked out of the room; which was no great proof of his good-breeding, you'll say; but mercy upon us! good-breeding is'nt what the gentleman values himself upon, for it was but last Friday, that he bounced out of the room to call Towser off, who was barking at a little dirty beggar-boy, though he saw that I had dropt my tea-spoon, and was obliged to stoop for it myself! a great bear! but indeed, I expected nothing better from a man, who has lived so long among Hottentots."—

—"Well, Sister! I dare say, that he ought to have stopped to pick up your tea-spoon; though to be sure, I can't find in my heart to blame him very much for having gone first to rescue the beggar-boy, being afraid, that I should have committed exactly the same fault myself. But you know I never pretended to good-breeding, and in all matters of politeness, Sister Milman, I must give way to your better judgment and experience.

However, I cannot be equally submissive repecting the material point; and in spite of all that you have advanced, I must still maintain my opinion, that Everard came by his money honestly, whatever you may have heard to the contrary."—

—"Then why wont he let a body know, *how* he came by it? Let me tell you, Brother, that when a man has anything good to tell of himself, he isn't so fond of holding his tongue; nay, for that matter, to hold one's tongue at all isn't natural, and I warrant you, whoever does so, has some good reason at bottom for submitting to such a disagreeable restraint, if one could but get him to own it: and so think the Williamsons, and the Joneses, and my Cousin Dickins, and all the family of the Burnabys: for *I* am not of so uncommunicative a temper as your darling Everard, heaven be praised for it! No; if I get a bit of information, I am too generous to keep it to myself, and have no peace, till all my neighbours are as well informed as *I* am. So this morning, I no sooner got possession of

this bloody story, than I ordered my chariot, and drove round the village to communicate it to all our friends and relations. To be sure, they were mightily shocked at the account, as who wouldn't be? But they confest, that they always expected to find something wrong at the bottom of this mystery, and they think it a mercy that I should have discovered the truth, before things were gone too far between Everard and your daughter Jessy."—

—"And so you have been carrying this fine story all round the village? I protest now, Sister Jane, it seems to me, that you have been giving yourself a great deal of very unnecessary trouble; and if, after all, your assertions should prove to be unfounded, I know not, what recompense you can make poor Everard for this attempt to blast his character—the most innocent circumstances may be so construed as to wear an awkward appearance: there are always enough ill-natured people in the world ready to spread about scandalous reports, and Everard has

too much merit not to have excited plenty of enemies; and here you have just now picked up a strange, unaccountable, rigmarole tale from one of these, and. . . . . "—

—" From one of his enemies!" exclaimed Mrs. Milman, fanning herself violently; " very fine truly! when I heard the whole story with these ears of mine from the mouth of his own little coffee-coloured barbarian! Yes, to be sure! Mirza is a violent enemy of Mr. Everard's, that cannot be denied!"—

The old merchant's face underwent a considerable change at hearing these last sentences: he looked distrest, and rubbed his forehead for some moments in evident anxiety.

—" Mirza!" he repeated after a pause— " Sister Jane, recollect yourself; this is no trifling matter! are you quite *sure* that Mirza asserts the truth of the story, which I have just heard you relate?"—

—"I tell you, Brother, for the second time, that I heard him tell it with my own ears! not indeed all at once, for the wicked little

Heathen knew too well, how little it was to his master's credit, that the fact should get abroad. Ah! he is a cunning hand, I promise you! But I went round about, and round about, and wormed, and wormed, and kept beating the bush, till I got it all out of him. I confess, I was obliged to promise faithfully, that his master should never know a syllable about it, for (he said) that it would give him pain to hear it mentioned, as to be sure well it may; but when I found, what a horrible secret it was, I had a great deal too much conscience to keep my promise, and lost no time in making the monster's guilt known to the whole neighbourhood."—

—" Well, well, Sister! I wont pretend to say, that you did wrong, and I doubt not, you acted from the best motives; but yet I can't help wishing, that you had acted otherwise! This Everard.... poor, dear, wicked fellow, he was once so good.... so affectionate.... I would have betted all I have in the world, that it wasn't in his nature to kill so much as a fly—and to murder a woman

. . . . a woman too, that he had promised to marry. . . . !"—

—"Aye! and to murder her in such a shocking manner too! first to shoot at her from behind a hedge, and when he found the poor creature was only wounded, to have the heart to run up to her, and actually beat her brains out with a club! Why, Mirza said, that he verily believed, that she was above half an hour dying!"—

—" I never heard of anything so horrible!"—

—" But what is worst, he wasn't contented with destroying the poor girl's body; he had previously ruined her precious soul! It seems, that her name was Nancy O'Connor; an Irish family, I suppose. I once knew an Irish officer of that name myself. I was but a girl then, and danced with him at the Hackney Assembly, and a mighty genteel comely-looking man he was, though he had but one eye; but that's neither here nor there. Well, as I was telling you, this Nancy was either the daughter, or the wife of a rich planter,

with whom Everard lived as clerk, or factor, or something of that kind. Well! and so, this poor girl fell in love with Everard, and he on his side was wonderfully attentive to Nancy; for Mirza says, that he passed whole days and nights in watching her, and ogling her, so that she actually could hardly stir without his knowing it; till at last he worked himself so totally into her good graces, and got such an influence over her mind, that (knowing his patron to have made a will entirely in Nancy's favour) he persuaded her to poison poor Mr. O'Connor, in order that she might share his wealth with her abominable lover."—

—"Poison her father? monstrous!"—

—"Her father, or her husband, for (as I said before) I am not certain which; but I should rather suppose, it was her father, for it seems, the poor deceived old man made it his dying request to her, that she should make Everard her husband, as soon as ever the funeral was over: so you may judge, how artfully the hypocrite must have played his cards!

Well! now it was supposed, that Everard would immediately have made Nancy Mrs. Brooke: the settlements were all drawn up; the cloaths were bought; the wedding-day was fixed: when lo and behold! what do you think the ungrateful monster did? He persuaded the poor young creature to dispose of all her property; and when it was converted into money, and jewels, and such like, he enticed her into a wood, where he robbed and murdered her in the manner which you have just heard; and then getting on board a vessel with his plunder in all haste, he managed to escape from Ceylon, before the officers of justice had time to discover what was become of him! The only thing, which surprises me is, that he should have brought away Mirza with him; but as the young Heathen was then quite a child, I suppose, his master thought it probable, that he knew nothing of this bloody business, or would certainly forget it during the voyage. And now, Brother, what have you to say in behalf of your fine Mr. Everard? Ah! how often have I told you, over and over again, I was

certain, that something bad would come out against him all in good time! But you were obstinate; you still let him come dangling about your house, and keep hankering and hankering after your daughter Jessy; and now you may think yourself well off, if the girl's heart isn't fixed upon having the vagabond, and getting her brains knocked out in her turn, like poor Miss Nancy O'Connor."—

Partial as the old man was to Everard, he could not but feel his faith in him a good deal shaken by this long string of horrible circumstances, and by the positive manner in which they were advanced. And now flocked in one after another the Joneses, and the Williamsons, and all the family of the Burnabys, with their wondering, and their blessing themselves, and their exclamations, and their pity for poor Miss O'Connor, and their having long suspected nothing better. The good old man listened in silence, and sighed, while they assailed him thus on all sides; but though he could not venture to contradict them, he could not find in his heart to join in their censures of the man, whom he had

so long esteemed, and whom he still loved so tenderly. But when at length Cousin Dickins made his appearance, (a man of great importance in this family, for he was rich, a bachelor, advanced in years, and Jessy's godfather,) and announced his thorough belief in Mrs. Milman's story, it was no longer in old Elmwood's power to remain neutral in the business. He declared his submission to to Cousin Dickins' better judgment, and his intention of declining any further communication with Mr. Brooke; for he no longer dared to call him by the familiar and affectionate appellation of Everard.

This declaration was received with great satisfaction by all present, and the resolution was pronounced *nem: con:* to be extremely judicious: the delinquent was at this time in London, whither he had repaired (as it was suspected) for the purpose of ascertaining the exact state of his property, in order that on his return he might lay it before Elmwood, accompanied by a formal demand of his daughter's hand. This absence was thought

very fortunate by the company, as it afforded the best opportunity for putting Jessy upon her guard; and it was determined to summon her without loss of time, make known to her the true character of the man, with whom she had so imprudently been suffered to associate, and insist upon her making a solemn promise in full convocation, that she would from that moment give up all communication with him.

Jessy made her appearance. Alas! the fate of her heart had been long decided. As she listened to the strange and horrible tale, she sometimes coloured with indignation against the accusers, and then again her cheeks grew pale through fear, lest the accusation should prove well founded. The charge was concluded; the promise was demanded; yet still Jessy spoke not, but sat absorbed in terror and grief. In vain was her lover's guilt repeated; in vain was she called upon to declare her abhorrence of him; still Jessy only answered with her tears. Her friendly relations turned up the white of their eyes at her

blindness and delusion; Mrs. Milman was loud in exclaiming against the obstinacy and wrong-headedness of young people, who would fancy themselves wiser than their parents; and the formidable Cousin Dickins, assuming one of his most severe and dignified looks, insisted upon her giving an immediate answer.

Terrified almost out of her senses at this formal address, the trembling Jessy now contrived to sob out "a hope, that her aunt had been mistaken.... that Everard would still be able to prove his innocence."...."Innocence!" so impossible a supposition was of itself sufficient to set the whole assembly in an uproar: the Wilkinsons, the Joneses, Cousin Dickins, and all the family of the Burnabys gave tongue at once; and above a dozen voices were still busy in affixing the least flattering epithets possible to the name of Everard, when the door opened, and Everard himself stood before them. He was just returned from London, and had hastened to assure himself of Jessy's welfare. In the

next moment you might have heard a pin drop. The debate had been carried on in too loud a tone to permit his being ignorant of the nature of their discourse; but at all events, the evident and universal embarrassment, which his presence created, left him no doubt, that himself had been brought upon the carpet, and that in a manner by no means to his credit. His sun-burnt cheek glowed with indignation, as he gazed round the circle, and requested to know the meaning of those appellations, by which while ascending the stairs he had heard himself described.

The question being general, no person thought it necessary to take it to himself. Each looked towards his neighbour, as if he expected the answer to come from thence, and consequently all continued silent. Everard now found it needful to particularize, and turning to Cousin Dickins (whose voice had been supereminently loud) he demanded of him the desired explanation.

—"Why really, Sir," stammered out Cousin Dickins, adjusting his neckcloth, in order

conceal his embarrassment; "really, Mr. Everard.... as to what was said.... I can only say.... that *I* said nothing—that is to say, not that I quite said *nothing*—though to say truth, it was almost as good as nothing—for it was nothing from my own knowledge—I only repeated.... I only observed .... that, if what Mrs. Milman said was true...."—

—"Mrs. Milman?" interrupted Everard; "that's enough—now then we get a step nearer to the source of the business.—Will you then, Madam, have the goodness to explain your reason for applying such opprobrious epithets to the name of Everard Brooke? a name, which, I am bold to say, deserves them as little, as that of any person in this society—I wait for your reply, Madam.—"

—"Well, Sir, and by my faith, you shall have it," answered Mrs. Milman, who by this time had recovered herself, and was now resolved to carry the business through with flying colours, by assuming a double quantity

of assurance. "You shall have it, never fear! and if it turns out, that your name is really as good as any one's in the company, and that you really did not poison the old gentleman, and beat Miss Nancy's brains out, why then so much the better for you, that's all, and there's no harm done."—

—"Poison the old gentleman? Beat out Miss Nancy's brains? What Miss Nancy? What old gentleman? Why, in the name of heaven, Mrs. Milman, where did you pick up this farrago of nonsense?"—

—"I pick up, indeed! Let me tell you, Sir, that I never picked up anything, or any body in my life; and that if you talk of picking up, you are the much more likely person to pick up of the two. And now I'm about it, I'll let you into another piece of my mind. It's extremely rude in you to call my conversation *a farrago of nonsense:* but truly it's no wonder, for I'm not the first lady that you have treated with rudeness, heaven knows! and more's the pity—Miss Nancy for that."—

—"Miss Nancy again!" exclaimed Eve-

rard, " and who the devil then is Miss Nancy ?"—

—" What then you don't know Miss Nancy ? No; never heard of Miss Nancy O'Connor, I warrant ?"—

—" No, Madam; I never did."—

—" Well, come, now, that *is* a good one! To beat a lady's brains out, and then to cut her acquaintance, and pretend you know nothing about her, is the finest piece of modern good-breeding, that I ever heard of! Nay, indeed, I never expected much good-breeding from *you*, Sir, ever since that affair of the tea-spoon. But one thing I can tell you; your little copper-coloured hottentot, Mirza, sings a very different song from you on this occasion; for I had the whole story from his own lips."—

—" From Mirza's ? Impossible!"—

—" It's not mighty polite in you to contradict one so plump, Sir, but no matter for that; I repeat it; Mirza told me himself, that you had poisoned a gentleman, and beat his daughter's brains out; and now so much for

that, and butter for fish. Nay, if you don't chuse to believe me, call the boy hither, and ask him; I desire no better, and I see him playing in the garden at this moment."—

—" And it shall be done instantly!" cried Everard, at the same time throwing up the window—" Mirza! Mirza!"—

Mirza was soon in the room.

—" Pray, Mirza, what is the meaning," began Everard, but Mrs. Milman immediately interrupted him.

—" Silence, if you please, Sir; I'll examine the boy myself. Come here, Mirza; well, and how d'ye do, my dear? Pray, Mirza, what was that pretty story you told me this morning about poisoning somebody, and killing somebody with a club, and. . . . "—

—"Oh! Missy, Missy!" cried Mirza, "you no say dat! Massa tell me no talk. . . . Massa grieve. . . . Massa angry. . . . "—

" No, no, child; he'll not be angry. He wants to hear how prettily you tell the story, and so you must tell it *all*; mustn't he, Mr. Brooke?" Everard gave a sign of assent;—

"You know, Mirza, it was all about how your master made his fortune; well, and so, Mirza, (upon my word, you're a very nice lad, and there's sixpence for you,) well, and so you say, Mirza, and so you say, my dear, that your master killed her in a wood: what? did he kill her *quite?*"—

—"Iss, quite! she quite dead! Massa beat brains out wid great club!"—

—"*I*, Mirza?" exclaimed Everard; "Did *I?*"—

—"Iss, dad you did, Massa! and God him bless you for it!"—

—"Bless him for it!" whispered Mrs. Milman to Cousin Dickins; "there's fine morality! the wicked little Heathen! but you'll hear more presently!" then turning again to the boy; "well but, Mirza, you told me something too about *poisoning*—what, I suppose, before your master killed Miss Anne O'Connor. . . . . "—

—"Conda! Conda!" interrupted the boy.

—"Condor, was it?" repeated Mrs. Milman:—"well, well, Connor or Condor, the

name makes no great difference. Well, Mirza, and so you say, that this Anne O'Condor, instigated by your master, I suppose. . . . "—

—" Oh! my massa! my massa!" shrieked Mirza in a tone of agony, at the same time pointing to Everard; who pale as death, and with a countenance expressing the most painful agitation, rushed to a table, on which stood a decanter of water, of which he hastily swallowed a draught; though so violently did his hands shake, that the goblet was carried to his lips with difficulty.

—" Forgive my leaving you so abruptly," said he, in a faltering voice; " I will return in a few minutes:" and he hastily quitted the apartment, followed by Mirza.

Now then his guilt was past doubting! Mrs. Milman spread out her petticoats, fanned herself with an air of triumph, and began a sermon upon the wonderful effects of conscience. Surprize had checked the course of Jessy's tears; the blood had deserted her lips and cheeks, and she sat motionless, looking like a marble statue. The

good old Elmwood felt in his own the wound, which his darling's heart had just received: but he had nothing to offer for her relief, except a fond pressure of her hand, and a sigh of compassion. The rest of the company shrugged up their shoulders at the depravity of human nature, and nodded their head significantly at one another, as if they had been so many Chinese josses—Suddenly the door opened; and Mrs. Milman was still in the full flow of her eloquence, when Everard re-entered the room, to all appearance perfectly recovered from his late disorder.

—"Mrs. Milman," said he, "I am now master of the whole of this business. Your ignorance of circumstances peculiar to the East, the singularity of my adventures, and the broken English in which you heard them related, have led you into a most extraordinary mistake. I cannot clear it up, without subjecting myself to the most agonizing recollections, and rending open afresh those wounds, which (it's true) are scarred

over, but which are too deep and too deadly to be ever thoroughly healed. If, therefore, the opinion of the world were alone concerned (that opinion, which is so little necessary to my own happiness), I should leave you in your error, rather than subject myself to the pain of an explanation—But I see in this circle two persons, one of whom possesses too dear an interest in my affections to permit my leaving a single thorn in her gentle bosom, which I have it in my power to remove; while the paternal kindness, which the other showed to me while I was still a boy, demands that I should convince him, that it was not shown to one unworthy. To calm their feelings, I will sacrifice my own; and much as I shall suffer while making the recital, the recital of my adventures shall still be made—Be attentive then, and every thing shall be explained."——

Curiosity now became the predominant expression—Elmwood breathed freer, held up his head higher than before, and shook

his daughter's hand affectionately: a roseate blush stole over the lovely fair face of Jessy, while a look of silent gratitude thanked her father—the rest of the company drew their chairs closer together, and prepared to listen with all their ears.

Everard seated himself, and thus began.

THE NARRATIVE

OF

EVERARD BROOKE.

——"Oh! I have suffered
With those, whom I saw suffer!"

Tempest.

YOU are already aware, that my fortune was made in the Island of Ceylon. It was there, that I was so lucky as to find employment in the house of a man, whose virtues rendered him as much the object of universal esteem, as the favors, which he conferred upon me, entitled him to my peculiar gratitude—I was engaged by him as his secretary; but all other names were soon forgotten by us both in that of friends.

He was an Englishman as well as myself, and perhaps this had no slight influence in producing so strict an intimacy between us. A variety of untoward circumstances had compelled him to abandon his native land, and sail in pursuit of fortune to the East. His toil had not been vain: the capricious goddess, who fled from him with such disdain in Europe, now showered her favors upon his head with the most unwearied profusion. He had consumed but a few years in Ceylon, and was already rich and possest of a distinguished situation. It seemed, as if fortune was at length resolved to convince the world, that she was not always blind; for had she searched the whole island through, she would have found it difficult to bestow wealth and honor upon a wiser or a better man. But of all his treasures, that which he counted most precious, that for which he thanked Heaven's bounty at every moment of his existence and with every pulsation of his heart, was a wife, who united all the beauty and graces

of her sex with all the firmness and judgment of ours. One only blessing was denied them: Louisa was not a mother.

My friend and patron [his name was Seafield], possest a villa at a small distance from Columbo. The place, it's true, was of no great extent; but it united in their fullest perfection all those charms, which render Nature in that climate so irresistible an enchantress. This was Seafield's most beloved residence, and hither he hastened, whenever the duties of his station permitted his absenting himself for a few days from Columbo: in particular, there was a small circular pavillion designed by his own hand, and raised under his own inspection, to which he was particularly partial, and in which he was accustomed to pass the greatest portion of his time. It stood some few hundred yards from the dwelling-house, and was situated on a small eminence, whence the prospect over land and sea was of a description rich, varied, and extensive. Around it towered a thick circle of palm-

trees, resembling a colonnade; their leafy fans formed a second cupola above the roof; and while they prevented a single sun-beam from piercing through the coolness of their embowering shades, their tall and slender stems permitted not the eye to lose one of the innumerable charms afforded by the surrounding landscape.

This delightful spot happened to be the residence of Seafield's whole family, when accidental business of importance required Louisa's presence at Columbo. Conscious that her husband considered every day as lost, which he was compelled to pass at a distance from his beloved retreat, she positively refused his attendance, but accepting me as her escort, she departed for the city. Diligence and impatience to return home enabled her to dispatch her affairs in less time, than she had expected them to occupy; and in the very first moment that she found herself once more at liberty, she ordered the palanquins to be prepared, and her slaves to hold themselves in readi-

ness for departing. Our journey was performed by night for the double purpose of reaching home the sooner, and of escaping the ardour of the noon-day sun. We arrived an hour after day-break; yet Seafield was already abroad.

—" As usual, he ascended the hill to enjoy the beauty of the rising sun"—thus said Zadi, Seafield's old and attached domestic; in whose favor his master made an exception to his general opinion, that in all their transactions with Europeans, the natives of this island were totally devoid of gratitude, honesty, and good faith.

—" We shall find him in the pavillion, then?" said Louisa.

—" Not a hour ago I left him there writing,"—was the answer.

—" We will go thither and surprize him," she said, addressing herself to me—" wait here while I change my dress; a few moments will suffice for my toilette, and I shall expect to find you here, when I return."—

In the mean while I remained leaning against one of the columns, which supported the small portico, by which the door was sheltered. From hence I enjoyed an uninterrupted view of the hill and its pavillion, which, surrounded by its light and beautiful garland of palm-trees, attracted the sight irresistibly. While my eye dwelt with satisfaction on their broad sheltering heads, I fancied, that I could discover a large excrescence upon the stem of one of them extremely unusual in those trees, which in general rear themselves perpendicularly towards the sky, regular and straight as the pillars of a colonnade. It resembled a large branch extending from one stem to its neighbour; and what puzzled me the more in this appearance was, that it seemed occasionally to be waved backwards and forwards, though the breathing of the sea-gale was so gentle, that it scarcely moved the leaves on the neighbouring branches. I made a variety of guesses to account for this phænomenon; but every thing which my memory,

or my imagination could suggest, seemed inadequate to solve this difficulty entirely to my satisfaction.

I was still puzzling myself with conjectures, when Zadi drew near me with some slight refreshments. I pointed to the branch, whose apparent motion had excited so much of my attention, and inquired, whether he could at all account for the strong effect produced upon it by the sea-breeze, while the slighter boughs were so gently agitated. He immediately turned himself towards the palm-trees: But no sooner did his eye rest upon the spot in question, than the silver basket with its contents dropped from his hands; the paleness of death spread itself over his swarthy countenance; he caught at one of the columns to save himself from falling on the ground; and while his eyes exprest the deepest horror and consternation, he pronounced with difficulty—"The Anaconda!—that is the Anaconda!—We are undone!"——

What could have produced an effect so

sudden and so violent upon a man, whom I well knew to inherit from Nature the most determined courage and most remarkable self-possession, was to me absolutely incomprehensible: But though I was ignorant of its cause, the sight of his extreme alarm was almost sufficient to shake my own presence of mind. I saw, that he was on the point of sinking on the earth, overpowered by his emotions: I sprang towards him, and caught him in my arms.

—"For the love of heaven," I exclaimed, "compose yourself, old man! Tell me, what terrifies you thus? What mean you by the Anaconda? What can occasion these complaints, and this alarm?"—

He endeavoured to recover himself—he strove to speak, but in vain; and before I could understand the accents of his stammering tongue, Louisa joined us, and without observing the slave's agitation, put her arm within mine, and advanced towards the pavillion—This action seemed to restore to Zadi the lost powers of his body and mind.

With a loud cry he threw himself on his knees before us, and in words interrupted by sobs and accompanied by tears, he forbade our crossing the threshold.

—"Your first step without these walls," he exclaimed, "leads to inevitable destruction. Every door must be bolted; every window must be barred. This mansion must resemble a sepulchre, where nothing living is to be found"——

And while he spoke, he hastily closed and locked the folding doors, through which we had a prospect of the pavillion. Louisa observed his singular behaviour and the agitation of his countenance, with looks, which exprest the most lively astonishment.

— "Are you distracted, Zadi?" she asked after a few moments,—"What mean these tears, and these expressions so alarming; and why do you forbid our going to your master?"—

"Your going to ..... ? Almighty God! My master?—He is yonder!—Oh! He is

lost! — He is lost beyond the power of saving!"——

—" He is lost, say you?—Answer me, old man! What mean you? What fear you? — Oh! how my heart beats with terror!"—

Her frame trembled with anxiety, while she gazed with wide-stretched eyes upon the messenger of evil tidings, and prest my arm with a convulsive grasp.

—" Recollect yourself, my good Zadi!" said I, " what is this Anaconda, which you speak of with such terror?—I have seen nothing except the branch of a palm-tree, which the wind moved backwards and forwards, singularly enough it's true, but still there was nothing in it alarming."—

—" Not alarming?" repeated the Indian, wringing his hands; " not alarming?— the Lord have mercy on me, miserable old man! Ah! Mr. Everard, that branch of the palm-tree..... Alas! alas! it is no branch..... ! It is a snake! a terrible

snake! We call it an Anaconda, and its kind is in size the most enormous, in nature the most fierce, and in appetite the most ravenous, of any to be found through all Ceylon!—See! see!" he continued, approaching one of the windows, "See! how the monster plays among the branches! It always twines and twists itself into those folds, and knots, and circles, when it prepares to dart itself upon the ground like lightning to seize its prey!—Oh! my master! my poor dear master! He never can escape! Nothing can save him!"—

Half of this alarming explanation was more than enough to throw the wretched Louisa into a state of distraction. Her features so distorted by terror, that she was scarcely to be known for the same woman, her eyes stretched almost to breaking, and her hands folded together with as strong a grasp, as if she meant them never to be again separated, she exclaimed in a voice so hollow and so expressive of suffocation, that it pierced her hearers to the very heart

—"My husband! — My beloved! — Oh! help me to save him, good, good men! Forsake him not! — Oh! forsake him not!"—

But at this moment, the wife required assistance not less than the husband. Overpowered by her sensations, she fainted in my arms; Zadi flew to summon her female attendants; and I bore the pale insensible Louisa back to her own apartment, though Zadi's dreadful narrative had almost deprived me of animation myself.

Our endeavours to re-kindle the extinguished flame of life were at length successful—Her eyes opened; she cast around her a look of apprehension.

—"Oh! why are you still here?" said she to me in a feeble voice—"Is his life then of so little consequence? Fly to his succour! Rescue him, or let me die! In preserving him, you will preserve me: if *he* perishes, *I* am lost!"—

—"He lives! he lives! Heaven be thanked! He still lives!"—thus shouted the

faithful Zadi, as he rushed into Louisa's apartment. His anxious vigilance had induced him to examine every part of the mansion, and ascertain with his own eyes, that it was perfectly secure against danger. He now returned out of breath from the balcony, whence he had discovered to his great satisfaction, that his view was unimpeded over the whole pavillion. He remarked, that the door, and all the windows (as far as the power of vision extended) were closely fastened; and hence he very reasonably concluded, that his master had been aware of the enemy's approach in full time to take every necessary precaution for his safety.

—"Hear you that, my dear Lady?" I exclaimed, while I took Louisa's hand; "Surely, this intelligence is alone sufficient to restore your strength and tranquillity. We had nothing to apprehend for Seafield, except his being surprized by the monster while unprepared. But you see, that he has had time to shut out the danger: He

has now nothing to do but to remain quietly within his retreat, and the snake will either not discover his being so near, or at any rate will be unable to break through the bulwarks, which separate them. The whole business therefore is a disagreeable blockade for an hour, or perhaps less; at the end of which the Anaconda will grow weary of waiting for its prey, and by retiring to seek it in some other quarter, will release our friend, and then we shall all be quit for the fright."—

The satisfaction with which I thus endeavoured to re-assure the agonized heart of Louisa, was thoroughly established in my own. But Zadi, whose own feelings were too much agitated by his master's situation to permit his attending to those of others, hastened with too little consideration to destroy the hope, which I so fondly indulged, and with which I strove to soothe the afflicted wife.

—"Oh! no, no, no!" he exclaimed; "we must not reckon upon the snake's leav-

ing us so soon! When the Anaconda has once chosen a groupe of trees for her abode, and is seen to sport among their branches, in the manner in which we saw her amusing herself, she will remain there for whole days and weeks watching patiently for her prey, till every chance of success fails her, and absolute famine compels her to emigrate: But her capacity of existing without food is almost inconceivable, and till she removes of her own free will, no human power is able to drive her from her retreat."—

"Almighty Powers!" stammered out the trembling Louisa; "then he is lost indeed! Even should those slight barriers be sufficient to protect him from the monster's fury, he must still at last fall a prey to the assaults of hunger!"—

My frowning looks easily made the old man aware of the imprudence, which he had just committed: But the mischief was irreparable. Every thing, which his imagination could suggest to soften the effect pro-

duced by his ill-judged confession, was unable to blunt the arrow, which had carried with it into the heart of his mistress the poison of despair.

—" But after all," said I," why are we to take it for granted that our friend is actually exposed to this urgent danger? By your own account, Zadi, above an hour had elapsed between your leaving your master in the pavillion, and your discovery of the Anaconda; and what then can be more likely than that the day being so delightful, he should have gone out to walk, and have quitted the pavillion before the snake's approach?"—

—" Angel of comfort!" exclaimed Louisa, while she seized my hand, and prest it to her lips; " blessed, ever blessed be you for that suggestion!—Why should it not be, as you suppose?—Why should not his absence have rescued him?"—

—" Ah! dear Heaven!" sighed the old man, and shook his head — " the doors closed.... the windows all fastened...."—

—" Prove nothing," I interrupted him; —" when did Seafield ever leave his favorite retreat, without taking those precautions?—Perhaps, at this very moment that we are trembling for his safety, he is at the distance of miles from the place of danger! Perhaps, nothing more is requisite for his full security, than that we should take the precaution of warning him in time, lest he should return to the dangerous pavillion instead of coming straight to the house. Come, come, Zadi; let us hasten to find him! Summon together all the male domestics, as well as our palanquin-bearers; let us divide them into small parties and send them into every path, by which it is possible for Seafield to regain the hill."—

—" Yes, hasten! hasten!" cried Louisa; " the thought, that you may come too late, pierces me to the very soul: Yet on his having already quitted the pavillion hangs my whole, my only hope!—Hasten, friends! oh! hasten to find him!"—

Her eagerness would not suffer us to re-

main a moment. We consigned her to the care of her female attendants. We then collected the male inhabitants of the house together with all speed, and having armed them in the best manner that time would permit, we approached in different quarters as near the fatal hill, as the protecting shelter of trees and branches would allow us, without running the risque of being discovered by the Anaconda. Zadi remained with me.

On our way, I endeavoured to compose my thoughts, and to make myself master of every particular, respecting the danger, to which the friend of my heart was exposed. My own alarm, and Louisa's presence had hitherto prevented my obtaining a thorough knowledge of the nature of Seafield's situation, and what he had to apprehend: But now that I was alone with him, I lost no time before I questioned Zadi.

—" You see, old man," said I, " how your fatal outcry, ' An Anaconda,' has palsied every soul through excess of terror. Now your imprudence will have been most

unpardonable, should it turn out, that you spoke without being quite certain of the fact, or if you should be found through your own natural timidity to have exaggerated the danger. Recollect yourself therefore, and then answer me calmly and frankly—" Are you positive, that what you saw was really an Anaconda; and in the dreadful acount which you have just given of her, have you not in some degree overstepped the limits of truth?"—

—" Sir," answered the good old man, " though it were the last word which I have to utter in this world, I should still repeat my former assertions. Why, the very name of this creature is enough to make every native of this Island feel the blood freeze in his veins!—and that I have not deceived myself, is alas! but too certain. I have already seen the Anaconda twice at no greater distance, than now; though never one of such a monstrous length and thickness, as that which is at present before us. This country would speedily become a wilder-

ness, if fortunately these reptiles were not very rarely met with; for in general they remain concealed within the recesses of the deepest woods—there clinging round the branches of some gigantic tree, they remain waiting with inexhaustible patience for an opportunity of darting down upon their prey, the first man or animal, who is unlucky enough to pass beneath them. How it happens, that this snake should have advanced so far into the open country, is what I can least comprehend: But as the rainy season is but just over, it is most probable, that she has been swept away by the irresistible violence of some of the mountain-torrents."—

During this conversation we had continued to advance under favour of the thick-woven underwood, till we were scarcely more than an hundred paces distant from the monster. We could now examine it with the most perfect distinctness, and the eye was able to take in at once the whole extent of its gigantic structure. It was a

sight calculated to excite in equal degrees our horror and our admiration: it united the most singular and brilliant beauty with every thing, that could impress the beholder with apprehension; and though while gazing upon it I felt, that every limb shuddered involuntarily, I was still compelled to own, that never had I witnessed an exhibition more fascinating or more gratifying to the eye.

The Anaconda was still employed in twisting itself in a thousand coils among the palm-branches with such restless activity, with rapidity so inconceivable, that it was frequently impossible for the sight to follow her movements. At *one* moment, she fastened herself by the end of her tail to the very summit of the loftiest tree, and stretched out at her whole length, swung backwards and forwards, like the pendulum of a clock, so that her head almost seemed to graze the earth beneath her: then in *another*, before the eye was aware of her intention, she totally disappeared among the

leafy canopies. Now she slid down the stem, winding herself round and round it; and now again only the extremity of her tail remained twisted round the root, while she stretched out her body upon the grass, and with elevated head and high-arching neck described a large or a small circle, as her capricious pleasure prompted.

These latter movements gave us an opportunity to discriminate with more exactness (during a few seconds at a time) the singular richness and beauty of her tints. The long slender body was covered with a net-work of glittering scales, girdling it round with rings above rings, and effectually securing it against every attack. The head was of a yellowish green, and marked in the middle of the skull with a large dark spot, from whence small stripes of pale yellow were drawn down to the jaws. A broad circle of the same colour went round the throat like a neck-lace, on either side of which were two olive-coloured patches, in shape resembling shields. Along the back

ran a chain of black waves with sharp-pointed edges, from whence on both sides, narrow flesh-coloured rings and broad bands of the brightest yellow (alternately and in the most regular order) descended in zig-zag fashion towards the silver-white stomach, where they lost themselves imperceptibly: but what served more than all to dazzle the eye with the brilliance of variegated colouring, were innumerable spots of a rich and vivid reddish-purple, sprinkled without order over the whole surface of the upper skin: for with the animal's slightest movement all these points, and spots, and contrasts of variegated hues, melted together in the sun beams, and formed one universal blaze composed of all the colours of the rain-bow.

Much as I admired the splendour of its garment, not less did I wonder at the enormous thickness of this terrific creature, which did not yield in bulk to that of a man of moderate size. Yet by comparing its thickness with its length, Zadi was de-

cidedly of opinion, that the Anaconda must have been greatly reduced by a fast of unusually long duration.—But the tranquillity of our observations was suddenly disturbed by perceiving, that she desisted abruptly from her airy gambols, and remained motionless at the foot of the palm-tree with her head elevated and turned towards the pavillion, as if in the act of listening!

At that moment, oh! God! with what violence did my heart beat against my bosom!—If (as from every circumstance appeared but too probable) my friend was really shut up within the pavillion, it was beyond a doubt, that the monster had discovered his being so near her, and was now on the point of making a serious attack! We could see distinctly the shape of her hideous head and the flames of her great piercing eye-balls, reflected from the glass-windows, whose shutters had been closed from within—But the sight of her own terrors seemed to scare even the snake herself, for she instantly recoiled; and then laying her-

self down close to the threshold of the circular pavillion, she encompassed it entirely, as if she was determined to secure her destined victim irrevocably, by inclosing him within the impassable limits of her magic ring!

Deeply penetrated with the sense of that danger by which my friend was menaced, I forgot my own, and seizing my gun, placed it to my shoulder the ball whistled through the air: I was an excellent marksman, and was certain, that I had pointed my piece exactly at the monster's head: and yet .... whether too great anxiety made my hand shake, or that the animal at that very moment made some slight change in her attitude, I know not.... But it is at least certain, that not the slightest shrinking gave me reason to believe, that she felt herself at all injured. In the mean while, Zadi had seized my arm, and drawn me forcibly into a deeper part of the thicket.

—"Ah! Mr. Everard!" sighed he; "I was well aware, that the Anaconda can set

all our fire-arms at defiance. Her scaly hide renders her invulnerable, except when one is quite close to her; and all that you have done is to put your own safety in danger, without advancing a single step nearer to my master's relief."—

However, it did not appear, that our enemy had paid much attention to my assault upon her. On the contrary, she only busied herself in renewing her attempts to gain an entrance through the pavillion's windows; till at length seemingly wearied with her unavailing efforts, she retired slowly, and concealed herself under the verdant umbrella of the palm-trees. We also had regained our former lurking-place; though we were now more irresolute than ever, as to the means most proper to be adopted towards the rescue of my friend.

While we stood thus with our eyes fixed immoveably upon the pavillion, we observed the door to be slightly agitated. After a minute, the lock was gently drawn back; slowly, and with the utmost caution, did

the door expand about the breadth of half a foot, and out sprang the little Psyche, a beautiful Italian grey-hound, Seafield's favourite play-fellow and inseparable companion. As if conscious of her danger, she rushed down the hill with her utmost swiftness: But with still greater swiftness did the Anaconda in one monstrous spring dart rattling down from its airy covert. The poor little animal was seized: we could just hear a short half-suppressed cry, which marked its dying agony; for the dreadful jaw-bone moved but twice, or thrice, and lo! the dog's chine was broken, and every bone in its body splintered. The snake then dragged her prey to the foot of the palm-tree, (for in order to produce the proper exertion of strength, it seemed necessary for her to have the stem or strong branch of some tree to cling to,) where she stretched herself out upon the grass at her ease, and began with her black tongue to separate the flesh from the bones of the crushed little animal.

The distress, occasioned in my mind by

this sight, in itself so painful and disgusting, was converted into agony by the reflections to which it gave birth, after the first moments of horror and surprize were past! That fact was now confirmed, which till this moment (in order to preserve at least a gleam of comfort however faint) I had obstinately refused to believe—Seafield then was actually in the pavillion! — the discharge of my musquet had in all probability made him aware, that his friends were at no great distance. No one but he could have unclosed the door so cautiously, in order to leave his little favourite at liberty to quit their common shelter; and Zadi was positive, that he had observed a ribband fastened round the neck of the animal, to which something white appeared to be attached, in form resembling a letter. It was then a message to *us!* a cry for assistance! a sacred injunction, that we should not abandon him in this season of his utmost need! What agony of soul must he have endured.... What agony of soul must he

even at that moment be enduring! To what a pitch of desperation must his mind have been worked up, before his trembling hand could have resolved to draw back the bolt, which was the only barrier between himself and annihilation! How bitter a pang must it have given his tender benevolent heart, when he drove out his fond and faithful companion, and exposed her to such danger? and then flattering himself (as no doubt he did) that the little animal's speed would surely enable her to escape.... Oh! what a cruel wound must Psyche's expiring half-heard cry have given to his feelings!—These reflections, or at least others nearly similar to them, almost deprived poor Zadi of his senses altogether.

—"Oh! powers of mercy!" he exclaimed repeatedly; "what did his letter mean to tell us?—that at this moment he is struggling with despair?—Alas! alas! we know it, we feel it! and yet here we stand inactive, without counsel, without resolution, without hope!"—

—"Patience! patience!" said I, inter-

rupting him: "it is evident, that our waiting here is of no advantage. Let us return home, and endeavour to find means of giving some more effectual assistance, than our tears."—

We found the domestics returned from their unavailing expedition, and the greatest part of them assembled in the court yard, whose lofty walls afforded them a secure refuge: Being all natives of Ceylon, they were well acquainted with the nature and pursuits of the Anaconda, either from their own experience, or from hearsay: But almost deprived of the power of thought by their terrors, no one was able to point out any means for attacking her with success. I immediately dispatched two of them to Columbo, to explain our situation, and demand assistance. I also desired, that medical aid might be sent to Louisa, and that if they could possibly find one, they should bring back with them a speaking trumpet. I then repaired to poor Louisa, and endeavoured to comfort her heart with a faint

gleam of hope, which my own was incapable of admitting. I failed in the attempt; she was a prey to the most abject despair: nor was I more successful in my endeavours to persuade her to withdraw from this scene of horror, and accompany my messengers to Columbo; a measure which was advisable both on account of her own security, and because her absence would leave us at liberty to bestow our undivided attention upon her husband. But finding her resolved not to remove from the scene of Seafield's danger, I returned to the court-yard, where the dejected domestics were still lamenting over the situation of their master, and expatiating on the dreadful properties of the Anaconda.

—"Friends!" I exclaimed, "there is not one among us all to whom the master of this house has not been a benefactor! Now, that he is threatened with destruction, now is the time for us to show our gratitude for his kindness! Come then; let every one follow me, who loves his Lord, and who

bears an honest heart in his bosom. Let us despise the danger of the attack, and set forward in a full body to deliver him by force! We are armed; in numbers, in reflection, in skill, the advantage is on our side. The bolder that we rush upon our enemy, the less dreadful will she appear to us. My life for it, she will be alarmed at the attack, will fly before us, and thus we shall enjoy the inestimable pleasure of rescuing our friend from death. Now then! let all who are of my opinion, show themselves to be men, and range themselves on this side of the court."—

Alas! Zadi was the only one, who obeyed this invitation: the rest, poor timid wretches (in number between twenty and thirty) stood there trembling, gazing upon each other with doubtful looks, and whispering together, as if desirous of discovering an excuse for the cowardice of each in the ignominy of his neighbour. After a few minutes, one of them, whom the rest had appointed to be spokesman, advanced towards me,

and stammered out their general assurance—"that to attack the famished snake with force would be nothing better than absolute madness."—

This hope disappointed, I next resolved to try, what effect of terror might be produced upon the monster by the united shouts and outcries of so considerable a body, assisted by the general and repeated discharge of our fire-arms. Our preparations were soon made; Louisa was apprised of the clamour which was going to be made: and in truth, we raised an uproar so loud and so well-sustained, that it seemed almost capable of waking the sleepers in the grave. From all the casements we discharged at the same moments our musquets provided with a double charge, and a hail of bullets rattled about the head of the gigantic snake, who afforded us a fair aim. Yet still she continued to play her gambols quietly among the trees; nay, she did not give any sign, by which we could judge, that she was sensible of our attack—After a few

moments spent in this manner with no better effect, we found that our provision of ammunition was exhausted: Besides, we were ourselves too much fatigued to continue any longer an attempt, which afforded us so little prospect of producing any advantage.

By this time the day was drawing rapidly to its close. By dint of turning the painful subject frequently in my mind, and making every possible conjecture, one means of scaring the Anaconda had suggested itself, which appeared to me well worthy of attention; but in order to put it in execution, the darkness of the night was necessary. I had often read in books of travels, what powerful aid had been derived from fire against the attacks of wild beasts, and how lions and tigers had often forgotten their thirst of blood, and betaken themselves to flight, like the most timid animals, when scared by a fire-brand whirled round, or the blaze of a flaming heap of straw. Armed with such weapons, I was determined, as

soon as night should be set in, to approach the Anaconda, and put her courage to the proof, even though the faithful Zadi should be the only one of sufficient courage to assist me in my venturous design.

The night arrived: an awful stillness reigned all around us—Our enemy, however, still was watchful; for from time to time we could hear her rustling among the branches. I past the twilight in endeavouring to comfort Louisa with the prospect of a serious attack to be made upon the snake the next day, from which (as I assured her) much better success might be expected: but I judged it prudent to conceal from her our nightly enterprize, the effect of which appeared even to myself too uncertain to make me venture to ground upon it any promise of advantage. Besides, her exhausted strength made it absolutely necessary, that she should pass some moments in tranquillity; a state, which seemed to me absolutely incompatible with the tumults of expectation, which the knowledge of our

proposed adventure would naturally excite in her bosom.

At length a sign given by Zadi made me aware, that all our preparations were completed. Louisa was reclining on a couch with her eyes closed, and seemed to have fallen into a kind of lethargy. I stole softly from the apartment, and was on the point of quitting the house, when a means suggested itself to me of communicating my design to my friend, even before the arrival of the speaking trumpet, which I expected the next day from Columbo. I recollected, that I had lately taught Seafield a common European trick of combination, by which two persons separated from each other (having first agreed upon their measures) could convey their sentiments without the help of words: a certain number of blows, corresponding with the number of the place which each letter of the four and twenty holds in the alphabet, enabled the striker to form words and sentences, by which the hearer without other communication

was made aware of the steps, which without his knowledge it had been settled for him to take—this trifle had but lately served us to puzzle Louisa, and pass away an idle evening hour; and I flattered myself with the possibility, that it might still exist in Seafield's remembrance. At any rate, I resolved to make the trial without loss of time, and the stillness of night seemed to afford me the most favourable opportunity for executing my plan with success.

A thin smooth board, well calculated for reverberating sounds, and a strong hammer were easily procured. With these I hastened to the balcony, and began by striking as many blows, as the alphabet required (that is, one to A—two to B—twenty-four to Z, &c.) till I had gone through it regularly. I trusted that this *orderly* manner of proceeding would awaken his attention; and having completed the alphabet, I told him (in the same manner) if he comprehended my meaning, to strike three blows within the pavillion, as loud as he possibly

could.—Oh! heavenly powers! I had not long to wait! It was not long, before three faint sounds informed me, that I was understood, and never did music seem so sweet to my ear!—I hurried to tell Louisa, that I had found a means of communicating with her husband, and that I was going to command him to be of good chear in *her* name and for *her* sake—A silent melancholy smile, a convulsive pressure of my hand were my reward; and I now hastened again to the balcony to assure the poor prisoner, that I was labouring for his relief; that Louisa was well, and begged him to be patient and composed; and that I requested him to keep up his spirits, and resist the attacks of despair, since he might depend upon it, that I would either rescue him, or perish in the attempt. I concluded by desiring him to assure me, that he would confide in the activity of my friendship, by repeating his former signal—I now suffered my hammer to rest—I listened — Again, more audibly than before, did I hear the three

wished-for blows given from within the pavillion, and I now hastened to prosecute my nightly plan with fresh spirits and renovated ardour.

Excited by Zadi's remonstrances, about a dozen of the bravest among the domestics and palanquin-bearers were assembled with torches in their hands in the court-yard. My design was, to steal as near the hill as the underwood would permit, under favour of the darkness, and only guided by a single dark lanthorn. When we could approach no further without hazard, we were to light our torches as fast as possible, and whirling them round and round, to rush towards the pavillion with loud shouts, in order that our attack might be accompanied by all the terrors and advantage of surprize.

Zadi, to whose care the guiding lanthorn was confided, went foremost; I followed close upon his footsteps, and thus with extreme caution and in profound silence did we press through bushes and brambles, till

we arrived above half as near again to the pavillion, as the position which we had occupied during the day. The Anaconda now lay right before us, quiet and unsuspecting; nor could we have wished for a better opportunity for executing our plan with every probability of success. We now turned to our companions.... But just Heaven! who can express our astonishment and vexation, and how did our heart sicken at perceiving, that the faithless cowards had shrunk from the danger now that it was so near at hand, and had profited by the darkness to steal away one by one! I was alone with Zadi: we concluded with justice, that for only two persons to make the attempt must be unavailing, and the old man flattered himself, that he should be able to shame his comrades into a resumption of their more manly resolutions. I had but little hopes of his success; yet no choice was left me but to follow him and endeavour to give double strength to his persuasions and reproaches.

Both were employed in vain: their terrors had subdued all sense of shame com-

pletely. They called us madmen for wishing to expose ourselves to the fury of the famished Anaconda; and instead of promising any future assistance, they declared, that they would only wait for daybreak to secure themselves by flight from a danger so imminent. In the mean while Zadi was busy in fastening several torches together in pairs.

—"Come, Sir!" he cried to me: "let us lose no more precious time in endeavouring to inspire these heartless knaves with courage! Let us leave the cowards, and try, whether perhaps the glare of these torches, doubled as you see them, may not of themselves be sufficient to dazzle and scare away the monster. At the worst we can but perish with our dear master, and it is better to die, than not perform our duty!"—

I obeyed him: we hastened back to the pavillion. Already were we on the point of ascending the hill, when I felt my arm seized by some one with a convulsive grasp.

I turned hastily round: a thin figure, breathless through speed and anxiety, and whose white garments fluttered in the breeze of night, stood beside me. It was Louisa! Our dispute with the slaves had not past so quietly, but that our voices had reached the ear of Seafield's sorrowing wife, whose couch anguish of heart permitted not slumber to approach. She questioned her attendants; by artful interrogatories she contrived to draw from them the peculiar nature of the enterprize, on which we were engaged. She feigned to sleep: and as soon as her women were thrown off their guard, she stole from her apartment, seized a torch, and followed us determined to share with us the danger and its reward.

My whole resolution failed me, when I recognized the new comer, and when she made known in a few short expressive words her desperate resolution. In a low voice I conjured her to return to the mansion-house; I protested, that her presence

robbed our arms of strength and our hearts of courage; and I asked her, whether it was not enough agony for us to tremble for an existence so dear as Seafield's, without being obliged to risque the loss of another life equally precious?

—"My life for his!" was the only reply, which she gave to my remonstrances; "my life for his!—What! shall I rest my hands idly before me, while strangers are active in his defence? Shall I have to blame myself during the remnant of my existence, for having done nothing for him in the time of his extreme need, *Nothing?* Shall my husband actually be rescued by his friends, while his careless wife has not even *attempted* to preserve him?—No, Everard, no! my life for his! my life for his!"—

I listened with admiration to the overflowings of this noble heart! How to resist her vehemence I knew not: I was compelled to give way to her, and yet was conscious, that her presence must entirely destroy every chance of our success. It would have been

madness to venture in her company to that extreme point of danger, to which Zadi and myself had before not scrupled to advance. The Anaconda too appeared at this moment to be more restless, than formerly: doubtless, the sound of our footsteps, and our whispering dispute must already have betrayed our being in her neighbourhood. Nevertheless, we hastily kindled our fire brands, one of which we held in each hand, and as we whirled them rapidly backwards and forwards, we sent forth shouts and shrieks with all our strength, the dead stillness of all around us rendered our outcries doubly dreadful.

A rushing sound among the tops of the palm-trees, as if branch by branch they were forcibly snapped asunder, was the answer given to our challenge. It was the Anaconda, (whether excited by fear, or by anger, I will not pretend to decide,) who darted herself from tree to tree with tremendous leaps, while the slender stems were bent and shaken by her burthen. At the

same time we were alarmed by a loud hissing, so piercingly sharp, that it seemed close at our ears, and her eyes, blazing with their own vindictive fires, shot lightnings through the gloom of night.

In truth, this appearance was in every respect so dreadful, that it required no ordinary courage to witness it without agitation. I cannot deny, that while gazing on it I felt my hair stand an end and my blood run cold: and I observed that Zadi strove to keep his teeth closed together, in order to prevent me from hearing them chatter.—I turned with apprehension to Louisa. Alas! there lay the wretched wife on the earth deprived of consciousness. This sight was sufficient to banish every other consideration. I threw away my torches hastily, clasped the unfortunate in my arms, and with Zadi's help, bore her with all speed back to the mansion-house; prosperous in this alone, that we retired unpursued by the Anaconda—Here after a long interval of

insensibility, we at length succeeded in recalling Louisa's flying spirit—She revived; but it was only to dwell upon the midnight scene, from which we were just returned, and which her inflamed imagination painted in colours, if possible, still more dreadful than the reality. She called without ceasing upon her husband and upon me: and since it was out of my power to give more active assistance elsewhere, it would have been barbarous in me to leave her, without endeavouring by soothing and persuasion to dissipate the gloomy ideas, by which her heated brain was distracted.

Thus past away the remainder of the night, which left us even with less hope and resolution, than we possest, when it arrived. The melancholy morning at length dawned; but the sun was scarcely risen, when Zadi rushed into the apartment. His eyes sparkled, and the beating of his heart almost choaked his words, before he was able to give them utterance.

—"Oh! Mr. Everard!" he exclaimed;

"my master.... my dear master!—He has still hope!—He has still courage!—He endeavours to communicate with us!—We shall soon know, how matters go with him .... what he wishes to be done.... what he expects us to do.... Yes! yes! we *will* soon know it!"—

It was some time, before he was sufficiently calm to explain to me the cause of this emotion. At length I learned, that in examining the pavillion, he had just discovered a sheet of paper thrust through the crevice of the door, and which, apparently detained by one of its corners, fluttered loosely in the air, unable to effect its escape. Doubtless it was a letter, which Seafield hoped, some favourable gust of wind would carry within our reach, but which he had not sufficiently disengaged from its narrow passage. As to reading the contents, even if the distance had permitted it, Zadi was not possest of the knowledge requisite. He therefore had hastened in all diligence to communicate to me this disco-

very, from which I also derived some hope, though fainter than that which filled the bosom of the faithful Zadi.

We hurried to the hill, approached still nearer than we had ventured to do hitherto, and with the assistance of an excellent telescope, I endeavoured to decypher the characters traced upon the important paper. Alas! that there actually *were* characters traced on it, was all that I could distinguish; for the light paper fluttered continually in the wind, and was never suffered to rest for two seconds together. My inexhaustible patience, my unwearied exertions, long struggled against the evident impossibility of success: I gained nothing by them except the conviction, that to prosecute the attempt further would only be to throw away a greater portion of my time. Zadi, in breathless silence and his eyes fixed on my face unalterably, watched my every movement.

—"Then you give up the point?" said he at length, while a livid paleness overspread his dark countenance, and such a

trembling seized him, that I could see his every limb shaking; "well then, there is no more to be said! Let us return to the house, and take courage: I will fetch you the paper."—

—"Old man!" I exclaimed starting at this unexpected assurance — "What say you?—Your good intention is worthy of your good heart; but you would make an unavailing sacrifice to your fidelity—you may bring destruction on yourself, but you never will bring the paper from thence. To do that is out of any mortal power!"—

—"May be so! may be so!" repeated the Indian; "but at least the trial shall be made. It seems, as if my master's voice cried to me, that his safety depended on that paper; and should I be worthy to belong to him, if I were deaf to my master's cry?—By the God of my fathers, I will either come back to you with that paper.... or never will come back again."—

And with every word that he spoke, his tone became stronger, his step firmer, and

the fire of resolution illuminated his large dark eyes.

During this contention we reached the court-yard—In silence, and absorbed in himself, did this unequalled servant make the necessary preparations for his undertaking. His plan was to conceal his whole person from head to foot under a covering of boughs and cocoa-leaves resembling as much as possible the broken branches, with which the snake's gambols or indignation had strewed the hill all around her. Under this verdant shield, he flattered himself, that he should be able to creep gradually to the pavillion door, unperceived by the Anaconda.

—" I have been accustomed," said he, " to this kind of work from my earliest infancy. In my time, I was reckoned an expert elephant-hunter, and by means of this artifice have frequently made those enormous animals my prize."—

But a few minutes were past, and already was Zadi accoutred in this singular disguise.

He provided himself with no weapons except his dagger. He obstinately refused to suffer me to accompany him, assuring me, that I should only put my own life in danger, without being able to afford him the least assistance. He was so positive, that I was obliged to give up the point: but I was at least determined to accompany the noble-minded fellow with my eyes, as well as with my fervent prayers and wishes. From the balcony of the mansion-house I had an extensive and unimpeded view over the surrounding objects; and from hence I saw Zadi set forward on his perilous adventure, taking through precaution a wide circuit in order to reach the hill itself.

With equal prudence he made his approach on that side, where the pavillion would screen him from the enemy's observation. From time to time, I lost sight of him among the underwood; even when he was before my eyes, I occasionally doubted, whether it was he indeed, so cautiously and so artfully did he make

his approach, creeping on his hands and knees, sometimes remaining without stirring, sometimes stealing forwards with a movement so imperceptible, that it almost eluded the keenness of sight. He was a living example to me of the discretion, assiduity, and skill, which the savage employs in laying his ambuscades, and stealing upon his unsuspecting enemy.

And now favoured by the long grass and fragments of boughs, with which the ground was covered, had Zadi by a thousand serpentine movements reached the wall of the pavillion. My heart beat violently, as I saw on one side the Anaconda, as yet (it's true) suspecting nothing, but still dreadful from her appearance, and exhibiting every moment awful proofs of her strength, by the powerful leaps with which she darted herself from bough to bough; and on the other hand, separated from her by the distance of ten yards at most, I beheld a poor infirm and aged man, whose force consisted only in his courage and his discretion.

Zadi in the mean while remained so tranquil and so motionless in his present position near the pavillion-door, that the monster could not fail of being deceived by so unsuspicious an appearance. The Indian's eye was fixed immoveably upon the snake, and followed all her twistings and windings with incessant application, while she swung herself with unwearied activity backwards and forwards, now here, now there, now above, now below; till at the very moment when she shot herself over him in a bound of prodigious extent, I suddenly saw the invaluable paper disappear from its place, without being able to perceive the means, by which it was brought into the power of the successful lurker.

I clasped my hands in ecstacy, and poured out my thanks to God from the very bottom of my heart.—But all was not yet done. It required no less caution and dexterity to retire, than to approach; and never did I offer up more fervent vows, than at the moment, when the animated thicket began to

set itself again in motion. Slower than the hour-hand of a dial, now moving forwards, now backwards, now right, now left, it stole itself down the hill. Still it went on.... and on.... and lower.... and lower .... till with inexpressible delight I saw it almost at the very foot of the hill—and now at length I began to draw my breath without pain—"the noble fellow is safe," said I to myself.—At that moment.... whether joy at the successful issue of his attempt had deprived him of part of his former caution ... or whether some accidental derangement of the sheltering branches discovered enough to excite the reptile's suspicion.... at that moment I saw the Anaconda dart from above, and in the quickness of a thought she reached the bottom of the hill and enveloped the unfortunate in her folds! a piercing shriek of horror burst from me! I felt all my blood congeal itself within my veins!.

Yet even in this dreadful situation wonderful was the presence of mind, which Zadi

still preserved; wonderful was the courage, the activity, and the skill, with which he defended himself against the monster. Grasping his dagger with firm and steady hand, he struck it with repeated blows between the impenetrable scales of his enemy, sought out with inconceivable address the most tender parts to strike, and at length succeeded in giving her so deep and so well-placed a wound, that it must needs have worked her up to the most extreme pitch of pain and fury; for suddenly I beheld him only girdled by a single fold of the Anaconda's tail, with which (in the same manner, that one who has unexpectedly grasped a nettle, throws it away) she hurled the poor wretch into the air far away, till I lost him among the surrounding bushes. As for the snake, she hastily regained her former hiding-place, where she lay quiet and concealed for some time, before she resumed her usual sports; though when she *did* resume them, it was evidently with less sprightliness than before.

My agony is not to be described! Nothing was to be seen of the unfortunate Indian. What was become of him? Had he been killed by the violence of the fall? or was he at that moment struggling in the pangs of death? His preservation I considered as beyond the limits of possibility; and yet it seemed to me inhuman and ungrateful quite to abandon him to his fate, without having first exhausted every possible means of assisting him. Irresistibly carried away by these sentiments, I rushed from the balcony, and hastened towards the hill by the same course, which he had pursued himself, and which I could easily track by the depression of the dewy grass. Towards that side also had he been thrown by the Anaconda, and it was probable, that the thicket might shelter me, till I could reach the spot, where he lay dying. In the eagerness of this hope, I totally overlooked the extreme risque of an undertaking, the very idea of which but four and twenty hours sooner would have made me shudder.

through every limb. So true is it, that violent emotions communicate a force to the mind, which enables it to rise above itself, and gives it courage to encounter danger and even death without the shrinking of a single nerve.

Suddenly my attention was arrested by a faint murmur!—It came from a thicket at no great distance: I listened again!—Oh! Heavens! it was the voice of Zadi—I lost not a moment in hastening to the place—He heard me; he opened his eye-lids, which seemed already closed in eternal sleep, recognized me as I raised him in my arms, and a faint smile stole over his countenance, as he stretched out his hand to me with difficulty.

—"Take it!" he said; "God be thanked, that I am able to reward your kindness so well!—even in the monster's grasp, I still kept fast hold of it—Oh! take it, take it!"—

It was the paper, which he had purchased so dearly, and which the faithful creature extended towards me.

—"Read it! he continued—"Lose no time!—Before I am deprived of my senses again.... and for ever.... at least let me have the satisfaction to know.... what my master *wished* me to do!—alas! alas! now you will be left alone to assist him!"—

—"And assist him I will, doubt it not, thou noble heart," I replied, while I strove to raise him from the ground; "but my first assistance must be given to yourself."—

It was in vain, that he conjured me to leave him to his fate, and only think of effecting his master's rescue. Without heeding him, I managed to lift him upon my shoulders, and tottering beneath his weight I endeavoured to effect our escape from the dangerous vicinity of the pavillion. With difficulty I succeeded in regaining the open ground. Fortunately some of the other domestics saw us from the house, and hastened to relieve me from my wretched burthen. Assisted by them, I at length saw Zadi safely deposited on a sofa in the mansion-house: he was again on the point of

losing all sensibility; but a cordial of powerful virtue being administered without delay, his strength was restored sufficiently to preserve him from a relapse.

It's true, none of his limbs were fractured, but he was dreadfully bruised by his fall; his breast and ribs had been almost crushed together by the close-drawn folds of the serpent; he was totally unable to move so much as a finger, and his condition was such as would have excited pity even in the most insensible nature. As for me, I almost sank beneath this addition to that general calamity, which seemed to increase with every succeeding moment. I was now a single man, to whose hand Providence had committed the lives of three afflicted creatures! never did mortal pray to Heaven with more fervour or more unaffected zeal, then *I* did while imploring the divine grace to assist me in fulfilling a mission so sacred and so difficult.

But as for Zadi, he seemed to have already forgotten himself, his past dangers, and pre-

sent pains. He implored me to waste no more time in striving to mitigate his sufferings, and assured me, that the letter of his dear afflicted master would be the best balsam for all his wounds. In compliance with his earnest entreaties, I prepared to peruse the paper; but the tears gushed into my eyes on recognizing the well-known hand-writing, and it was with difficulty, that I decyphered the following words:

—"Oh! I understand you well, my friends, my beloved-ones! your voices.... still more your unremitting and desperate exertions to relieve me.... all convince me, that you are near me; that you feel for me; that you spare no labour to effect my rescue! —Alas! you will labour in vain!—Death has already enveloped me in his dark circle; there is no escape; I have already bade my farewell to life——I cannot long survive in this atmosphere, corrupted as it is by the pestilential vapours, constantly exhaling from the monster's jaws.—I die resigned; but do not embitter this last and heavy

hour by the apprehension, lest your exertions in my behalf should be the means of involving you in my danger. By all that is sacred and dear, I conjure you, abandon me to my unhappy fate; fly! oh! fly far from hence; it is my last, my only, my most earnest request!

"Everard!—Oh! Everard, my poor wife! —Do not abandon my Louisa!"——

A cold shuddering ran through my bones: the poisonous air robbed us even of our last wretched hope, that the Anaconda might at length retire wearied out with her vain expectations, and leave my friend at liberty to quit his retreat. But now it was evident from his letter, that long ere this could happen, Seafield would be no more! *immediate* help must save him, or *none!*——Zadi sobbed aloud: it was an addition to my own grief to think, that I had been obliged to give a fresh pang to his faithful bosom, and it wrung me to the very soul, when I saw him give way openly to this burst of sorrow.

Suddenly he uttered a shriek so loud, that it startled all who heard him.

—" No! no!" He exclaimed in the most violent agitation—" No! no! he shall not bid farewell to life for ever!—there are still means.... Oh! wretch that I am! curses, eternal curses on my old head, that I did not think of it till now, and now it comes too late!—I might have saved him! I might have saved him!—Had I but thought of it sooner, my master would have been safe at this moment! now it is too late!—He must die, and 'tis my heedlessness, which kills him!"—

—" For mercy sake," I cried, " explain yourself, old man!—You see, that our messengers are not returned from Columbo—every moment, that we lose, is inestimable! —If you really do know any means of rescue.... tell it.... discover it!—Delay not an instant! — Speak! — To what means do you allude?"—

—" It is too late! it is too late!" he repeated; " No one but myself could have

carried it through; and here I lie, without the power to move a limb, and no one else will undertake a task so desperate!"

—"The means! the means!" I exclaimed again, almost frantic with agitation.

—"Well then!" he resumed, his words frequently interrupted with groans; "the Anaconda is, as I told you formerly, the most voracious animal in nature. She is invincible, while stimulated by hunger; but she can be overcome by a very child, as soon as she has satiated herself with food: then she loses the flexibility of her joints, and instead of her restless activity she seems plunged in a benumbing torpor, and remains unable to move, overpowered by the burthen of her immoderate meal."—

—"Excellent dear old man!" said I, in rapture at the ray of hope, with which his words inspired me; "Is what you say *certain?*—Could we but satiate this Anaconda....."—

—"My master were rescued!" he replied:—"but to effect this requires the

risque of a life: and who will venture that? —Oh! were but these old limbs, as they were two hours ago. . . Could I but remove the mountain load, which weighs upon my chest, and prevents my breathing. . . . "—

—" Oh! if I am but right in my guess!" I interrupted the old man; " you would have driven her prey to the Anaconda?"—

—" The whole herd! the whole herd!" shouted Zadi; and he sank back exhausted by the violence of his emotions.—" This thought," he continued in a low voice after the pause of a moment—" this thought suggested itself to my recollection long ago; but wretch that I was, I believed its execution to be impracticable—the plague, which lately prevailed here among the cattle, has occasioned them to be removed from this part of the country, and they were gone too far to be recalled in time to afford the required assistance—In despair therefore I banished this scheme from my thoughts;

but now that I am rendered unable to put it in execution, I remember. . . .

—" What? What?" I inquired, almost breathless with anxiety.—

" You know well Van Derkel, the rich Hollander, whose estate joins this? He is the most positive man breathing, and having once declared our fears of the plague to be groundless, he refused out of pure obstinacy to suffer his cattle to accompany those of his neighbours —they remain on his estate at this moment; an herd might easily be procured, and then . . . . but it is too late, now it is too late! none but his faithful servant would dare . . . . "—

—" What?" said I, interrupting him; " will not his faithful friend?"—

Zadi's looks met mine: they burned with new fire, while he confest, that on me alone now rested his only hope. The flames in his eyes seemed to have communicated themselves to my heart; and the blessings with which he loaded me, and the effusions of gratitude to Heaven and to me which he

poured forth, confirmed the resolution, which I had already adopted.

—"Be of good comfort, friend!" said I, as I turned to leave him; "the man, whom you sought, is found! I will tread that path which no other will tread, and I now leave you for the purpose of seeking it."—

Zadi's eyes were now filled with tears of joy.

—"May the God of my fathers bless you!" he said, raising his eyes to Heaven; "now then I can die contented! Now then the hour of my master's deliverance will strike at last."—

I lost no time in hastening to Van Derkel's. I offered his herdsman the whole sum in my possession, if he would assist me in driving the beasts under the palm-trees: but he shuddered at the proposal, and rejected my proffered gold. I was not yet discouraged. By his master's authority I promised him freedom, provided he would but venture so far, as to advance with the herd to the extremity of the little grove,

which on the north-side separated the hill from the open country. He hesitated; again I prest him; and at length he stammered out his consent, but in a voice so faint, and with a look of such irresolution, as convinced me, that I could place little dependence upon his promised help.

However, I at least neglected none of the means, which might contribute to our mutual safety: I caused the slaves to prepare with all diligence a couple of machines similar to those, under which Zadi had performed his hazardous undertaking. Covered with these, we began to drive the cattle slowly before us; and as the general agitation had caused them to be totally neglected by their keepers during their confinement in a place, which afforded no herbage for their nourishment, hunger made them more obedient, than we should probably have otherwise found them—and thus did we advance towards the hill, though the little resolution of my companion evidently grew still less with every step which we took for-

wards. To encourage him, I bade him observe the tranquillity of the Anaconda, who had gradually withdrawn herself into her green shelter, so that we might almost have doubted her being really there.

—"That is the very thing, which alarms me!" answered the trembling slave; "I am sure, that she has already discovered us, and now lurks concealed among the leaves, in order that she may make her prey the more secure. Now then, not one step further will I advance; what I have already ventured is enough to merit liberty; but at all events, I had rather pass the rest of my days in fetters, than purchase my freedom by advancing a single foot beyond this spot!"—

And with these words he hurried away. However, I was the less disturbed at his forsaking me, when I perceived, that without him I could manage to drive the cattle forwards, and that no natural instinct made them aware of the neighbourhood of their enemy. It was not long, before we arrived at the hill-foot. I was now obliged

to leave the animals to their own guidance feeling themselves no longer annoyed by my goad, they gave way to the impulse of hunger, and dispersing themselves carelessly, began to feed upon the welcome herbage: but how great was my joy at perceiving the bull separate himself from the rest of the herd and begin to ascend the hill. We arrived near the groupe of palm-trees: every thing was hushed and tranquil: not a sound was to be heard, except the noise of the scattered branches, as the bull trampled them beneath his feet: the Anaconda seemed to have disappeared altogether.

But on a sudden a loud and rattling rush was heard among the palms, and with a single spring the snake darted down like a thunder clap and twisted herself with her whole body round her devoted victim. Before the animal was yet aware of his danger, he already felt his dewlap inclosed between the wide-expanded jaws of the monster, and her teeth struck into it deeply.

Roaring aloud he endeavoured to fly, and succeeded in dragging his tormentor a few yards away with him; but instantly she coiled herself round him in three or four wide folds, and drew these knots so close together, that the entangled beast was incapable of moving, and remained as if rooted to the place, already struggling with the terrors and pangs of death. The first noise of this extraordinary contest had been sufficient to put the remaining cattle to flight.

Unequal as was the strife, still it was not over instantly. The noble beast wanted not spirit to defend himself, nor was his strength easily exhausted. Now he rolled himself on the ground, and endeavoured to crush the enemy with his weight; now he swelled every nerve and exerted the power of every muscle to burst the fetters, in which his limbs were enveloped; he shook himself violently: he stamped; he bit; he roared; he pawed up the earth; he foamed at the mouth, and then dashed himself on the

ground again with convulsive struggles. But with every moment the Anaconda's teeth imprinted on his flesh new wounds; with every moment she drew her folds tighter and tighter; till after struggling for a full quarter of an hour, I at length saw the poor animal stretched out at full length and breathless, totally deprived of motion and of life.

Now then I expected to see the Anaconda gratify the hunger, by which she had so long been tormented: but I was ignorant, that it is not the custom of this animal to divide its prey, but to swallow it in one enormous morsel. The size of the murdered bull made this impossible without much preparation; and I now learned from the snake's proceedings the necessity which there was for her always remaining in the neighbourhood of some large tree.

She again seized the bull with her teeth, and dragged it to the foot of the stoutest Palm. Here she endeavoured to place it

upright, leaning against the trunk. Having effected this, she enveloped the tree and the carcase together in one great fold, and continued to draw this closer, till she had broken every individual bone in her victim's body into a thousand pieces, and had actually reduced it into a shapeless mass of flesh. She was still occupied in this manner, when I hastened back to the mansion-house to rejoice Louisa and Zadi with the assurance of my success.

The roaring of the bull had already prepared the latter for my tidings. He limped to meet me at the door in spite of his bodily agonies, and overpowered me with thanks and benedictions. He also informed me, that the expected succours from Columbo were at length arrived, and that a physician had accompanied them. I immediately requested to see the latter, and commissioned him to impart the good news of Seafield's approaching deliverance to Louisa with such precautions, as might prevent her enfeebled constitution from suffering through

excess of joy. I also recommended Zadi to his care, and then hastened back to complete my work; Zadi having assured me, that it was absolutely necessary to watch for the moment, when the Anaconda should have swallowed her prey, and be enervated and overcome by the torpor of indigestion.

—" You will be in no want of assistants," he added; " my fellow-servants are all ready to accompany you, not only because I have succeeded in convincing them, that all danger is now at an end, but because among the natives of Ceylon the flesh of the Anaconda is looked upon as most delicious food."—

In fact, on entering the court-yard I found the whole body of domestics, women and children as well as men, prepared for the attack with clubs, hatchets, and every sort of weapon, which had offered itself to their hands. The party from Columbo were well provid d with ammunition; and we now all set joyfully forwards for the hill, though

on approaching it, we judged it as well still to use some little precaution.

I advanced beyond the rest. The Anaconda had by this time entirely covered the carcase with her slime, and was in the very act of gorging this monstrous morsel. This task was not accomplished without violent efforts: a full hour elapsed, before she had quite finished her dreadful meal; at length the carcase was entirely swallowed, and she stretched herself out at full length in the grass, with her stomach distended to the most astonishing dimensions. Every trace of her former liveliness and activity had disappeared! Her immoderate appetite had now yielded her up impotent and defenceless, a prey even to the least formidable foe.

I hasten to conclude this long and painful tragedy. I discharged my musquet at the monster at a moderate distance. This time the ball struck her close by her eye. She felt herself wounded: her body swelled with spite and venom, and every stripe of her variegated skin shone with more bril.

liant and vivid colours. But as to revenging herself upon her assailant, of that she was now totally incapable. She made one vain attempt to regain her old retreat among the boughs of the palm-trees, but sank down again upon the grass motionless and helpless. The report of my musquet was the signal agreed upon to give notice to the expectant crowd, that they might approach without danger. Every one now rushed towards the snake with loud shouting and clamours of joy. We all at once attacked her, and she soon expired under a thousand blows: but I did not wait to witness this catastrophe. A dearer interest occupied my mind: I hastened with all speed to the pavillion, and knocked loudly at the door, which was fastened within.

—"Seafield! my friend!" I exclaimed; "'Tis I! 'tis Everard! — Open! open! I bring you life and liberty."—

A minute past. . . . another. . . . and still I listened in vain for an answer—Had fatigue overpowered him? Was he asleep, that he

answered not?—I knocked again; I spoke a second time, and louder—I listened so attentively, that I could have distinguished the humming of a gnat within the pavillion—Heaven and earth!—was it possible, that after all I had come too late?—the thought was distraction!—I snatched an axe from one of the slaves, and after a few blows the pavillion door flew open.

I rushed into the room, and looked eagerly round for my friend—I found him.... Oh! Heaven!—his eyes were closed.... his cheeks pale.... every feature of his noble countenance so changed, that he was scarcely to be recognized! He lay extended in his arm-chair, and the noise of our entrance seemed to rouze him from a long stupor. He saw me; a faint smile played round his wan lips, while he attempted to stretch out his hand to me, but it sank down again from weakness: I threw my arms round him, and prest him to my heart in an agony of joy.

—"You are safe!" I endeavoured to say;

but the attempt to repress my gushing tears choaked my voice, and the sounds were unintelligible.

—"Yes!" said he with difficulty, "this is being a friend indeed! — But tell me! Louisa.... ?"—

—"She lives, and expects you," I replied; "come, come! my friend; rouze yourself! Make an effort, and shake off this lethargy! Look upon your danger as no more than a frightful dream, and awake to the real happiness, which awaits you!"—

—"It waits not for me!" he answered faintly: "I have received my death-warrant in this chamber. My minutes are counted! — Louisa.... Oh! bear me to Louisa!"—

The chamber was hot and close even to suffocation. We removed him with all speed into the open air, four of the slaves bearing him as he sat in his arm-chair; but as we conveyed him down the hill, we took care to turn his face away from the spot, where lay the breathless but still hor-

rible Anaconda. — The purer atmosphere seemed immediately to produce a beneficial effect upon the sufferer; and his strength was still further recruited by a few drops of a cordial, with which I had taken care to provide myself, and which I administered with the utmost caution.

On our arrival at the mansion-house we found, that Zadi's attention had already provided every thing, which his master could possibly need. His bed was prepared; every kind of refreshment was in readiness, and the physician was waiting to afford his much-required assistance. But we soon found, that the most effectual medicine for Seafield would be the sight of Louisa; and as the physician was of opinion, that the lady was more likely to suffer from anxiety to see her husband, than from the agitation of the interview, my friend was indulged in his wish, and we supported him to the chamber, where his wife so anxiously was expecting his approach.

I will not attempt to describe this inter-

view, nor that which afterwards took place between Seafield and the faithful Zadi; the feeling heart of itself will fill up this chasm — yet I cannot omit mentioning, that it was not till I had explained to my friend the whole extent of his obligations to that faithful Indian, and till the repeated orders of his master compelled him to appear before him, that Zadi indulged his ardent wish to throw himself at the feet of his beloved Lord.—And why then did he deprive himself so long of a pleasure, which he desired so earnestly?—The noble fellow was unwilling to afflict his master by showing him, how much and how severely he had suffered for his sake! I cannot tell you, how much both the re-united couple and myself were affected by this uncommon mark of delicacy and consideration.

Oh! how happily and how swiftly fled away the first days, which succeeded the deliverance of my friend: alas! those first days were the only ones destined to pass happily. It was soon but too evident, that

Seafield's sufferings in that fatal pavillion had injured his constitution irreparably. With every succeeding day his strength visibly decreased, and the blighted flower bowed itself still nearer to the ground. His malady defied the power of medicine; he seemed to perish away before our eyes; and the physician was at length compelled to acknowledge, that all the powers of art were insufficient to sustain any longer Seafield's exhausted frame. Not the unsatisfied demands of nature; not the hunger which gnawed his entrails, nor the burning thirst which dried up his palate; not the agonies of his mind, and his painful wrestling against despair—none of these had affected him so fatally—No; it was the pestiferous breath exhaling from the jaws of the Anaconda, which had penetrated into Seafield's close and sultry prison; and whose force concentrated and increased by confinement, had fallen upon his constitution like a baleful mildew, and planted the seeds of

dissolution in the very marrow of his life.

What Louisa and myself endured, while watching his slow but constantly progressive journey to the tomb, no words can utter. He gave Zadi and his three sons their freedom, and made over to him a small estate near Columbo, fully sufficient to secure the comfort of the good old man for the remainder of his existence. During the last days of his illness he frequently reminded me of the letter, which he had written in the pavillion, and of which Zadi had obtained possession at such extreme risque—This paper he frequently charged me to consider as his dying testament; he as frequently repeated the same thing to his wife, while she wept by his bed-side—His last words were like his letter, "forsake not my poor Louisa!"—His last action was to place her hand in mine—he sank back a corpse on his pillow, and Louisa fell lifeless at my feet.

Yet she saw him once more; she insisted on pressing her lips once again to his. I

trembled for the convulsive agonies, which her delicate frame would undergo during this last and most painful scene: yet was I still more alarmed, when I witnessed the composure of her affliction. She held his hand in hers; she spoke not one word; she heaved not one sigh; not a single tear escaped from her burning eyes. She stood long motionless by his bed-side; she bent down, and prest her colourless lips upon his closed lids; and then slowly and silently she withdrew to her widowed chamber.

I chose for Seafield's sepulchre the place, which he had always loved best, and where he had suffered the most: his tomb was raised in the fatal pavillion. Zadi and myself laid our friend in the earth: we should have thought his coffin profaned, had we suffered any other hands to touch it. Seafield and his sufferings slept in the grave: his less fortunate friends still lived to lament him.

My benefactor had left his property jointly to Louisa and myself; and his wishes re-

specting us had been exprest too clearly to be misunderstood. Louisa was among the loveliest of her sex; but I should have counted it profanation, had my heart suffered itself to harbour one thought of her less pure, than is offered at the shrine of some enfranchized saint. I loved not Louisa; no, I *adored* her. Alas! it was not long, before she became a saint indeed.

She complained not, but she sorrowed: she suffered, but it was in silence. In vain did she forbid her lips to confess the progress, which grief made in her constitution; her emaciated form sufficiently betrayed it. A few melancholy weeks had elapsed since the death of my friend, when one morning her terrified women informed me, that she was not in her apartment, nor apparently had been in bed all night—My heart instructed me well, where to seek the unfortunate. I flew to the pavillion; she was stretched on the marble stone, which covered her husband. In the agony of grief she had burst a blood-vessel, and her limbs

were already cold — her countenance was calm, and a faint smile seemed to play round her lips: it was the only smile, which I had seen there since Seafield's death. —She was deposited in the same grave with her husband; for myself, I was unable to sustain the weight of grief imposed upon me by this second calamity, and a long and dangerous illness was the consequence of my mental sufferings.

The skill of my physician saved my life; and no sooner was I able to quit the house, than I resolved to withdraw from a land, rendered hateful to me by such bitter recollections—In consequence of Louisa's decease, the whole of Seafield's property by his will devolved to me—I endeavoured to prevail on Zadi to accept some part of it, but he declared, that his master's liberality had gone beyond his utmost wishes.

—"Yet one request," said he, "I will venture to make. My two eldest sons are grown up and able to take care of themselves: but the third is young, and I feel,

that my death can be at no great distance. His brothers may treat him ill, or at least may neglect him; but condescend to take him into your care, let him be your servant, and I shall not have a wish in this world left unaccomplished. Under the protection of an honest man, my boy cannot fail to become an honest man himself."—

Mirza (for that was the lad's name, the same who is now with me) was in the room, and joined his entreaties to his father's with such earnestness, that I could not refuse their request. I soon after left Ceylon, followed by Zadi's blessings; the good old man is still alive, and by a third hand I hear from him frequently; but the letters, which he dictates, embrace but two topics, anxiety for the welfare of his son, and regret for the loss of his beloved master.

—"You are now informed," continued Everard, after a moment's pause, addressing himself to the whole society, "you are now informed, by what means I acquired my

fortune. It was the gift of gratitude: but never can I recollect the dreadful service which I rendered Seafield (and alas! which I rendered him in vain!) without feeling my frame convulsed with horror, and my mind tortured by the most painful recollections—It is this, which has ever made me unwilling to discourse on the means, by which I became possest of my wealth. Yet I cannot but think it somewhat hard, that mere silence should be construed into positive guilt; and that I should be treated as if convicted of the most atrocious crimes, because I have not thought it necessary to make public my private life, and to rend open anew the wounds of my heart for the gratification of idle and impertinent curiosity."—

Everard was silent: so were all around him. Confusion blushed on every cheek, except on Jessy's, whose tender heart had been deeply affected by the mournful story, and whose mild blue eyes still floated in tears, though every now and then a smile

beamed through them in approbation of her lover's conduct—Her father at length mustered up his courage, and broke through this embarrassing silence.

—"My dear good Everard," said he, "I know not how to excuse my friends here for telling me so many slanders of you, nor myself for having been credulous enough to believe them—In truth, there is but one person in the room, whose lips are worthy to convey to you our apology: there then, let them make it," — and with these words he placed the blushing Jessy in Everard's arms.

And Jessy's lips wisely exprest the apology in a kiss; and Everard acknowledged, while he prest her to his bosom as his bride, that the apology was not only sufficient, but a reward in full for the sufferings, which he had experienced through the vicissitudes of his whole past life!

FINIS.

THE DYING BRIDE;

A BALLAD.

—"If Death
Consort with thee, Death is to me as Life!"

Milton.

THE DYING BRIDE.

—" Speed, speed, my courser!"—Albert said,
And swiftly onward hied:
He went to see his lovely maid,
And claim her for his bride.

Now to the castle-gate he came;
Now entered he the hall;
And there he saw an antient dame,
Who many a tear let fall.

—" Good morn, good evening, Dame," he said,
The matron when he spied;
" Where shall I find my lovely maid?
Why tarries my sweet bride?"—

—" Oh! she is on her death-bed laid,"
That ancient Dame replied;
" Go love, Sir Knight, some other maid,
And chuse some other bride.

" Oh! she is sick at heart, at heart!
Is sick, and like to die!
And in the gloom of yonder room
Expiring doth she lie!"—

The warrior went with steps of woe,
Nor dared a word to speak,
While oft a silent tear would flow
Adown his sun-burnt cheek:

Yet strove he, when he reached her door,
His tears concealed to keep,
For well he knew, his lady sore
Would grieve to see him weep.

He entered, and he softly said,
(And while he said, he sighed,)
—" Are you not better, gentle maid?
Not better, my sweet bride?"—

—" Oh! never shall I better be!
No more your bride am I:
An hour, and you my grave shall see
A moment, and I die!

" This heart so fond must beat no more,
These eyes no more must shine;
Nor long wilt thou her loss deplore,
Whose love so long was thine.

" By *this* door will they bear me out;
By *that* will guests come in;
And soon forgetting me, no doubt
A second bride you'll win.

" The self-same bells, which mourn my doom,
Shall hail your marriage-morn;
The self-same flowers, which deck my tomb,
Your bride-maids shall adorn:

" And on your couch of damask laid,
Close by your new love's side,
No more you'll think on *me*, poor maid!
You'll kiss your second bride!"—

She said; his hand she fondly wrung,
While painful came her breath;
—" Adieu!" still faltered on her tongue,
But sank, unsaid, in death.

The trembling Knight, her lips he prest;
Cold were those lips so sweet!
The trembling Knight, he touched her breast;
Her heart had ceased to beat!

—" And did he see that fair cheek fade,
Which roses lately dyed,
And *did* he love another maid
And chuse another bride?"—

No, Lady, no! Death's gathering mist
Obscured his failing eyes;
The beauty's lips once more he kissed,
Then sank, no more to rise:

Close to her cheek his cheek he laid,
And murmured, as he died,
—" See, love! I loved no other maid,
And chose no other bride!"——

THE FOUR FACARDINS,

AN ARABIAN TALE.

PART I.

—" On a banni les Démons et les Fées ;
Sous la raison les Graces étouffées
Livrent nos cœurs à l'insipidité !
Le Raisonner tristement s'acrédite ;
On court, hélas ! après la vérité——
Ah ! croyez moi, l'erreur a son mérite."—

VOLTAIRE.

THE FOUR FACARDINS.

PART I.

—" Oh! wonderful, wonderful, and again most wonderful wonderful, and yet again wonderful, and after that out of all whooping."—

As you like it.

At the Court of Schahriar, (that Monarch, whose method of preserving his honour by cutting his wife's head off, has rendered him so justly celebrated throughout the world,) was educated the heir of the small principality of Trebizonde. At an early age he departed in search of adventures; and having consumed two years in this pursuit, he unexpectedly returned to the capital of India. Hearing of his arrival, the Sultan was de-

sirous to know the history of his travels. In consequence, one evening the Prince was ordered to attend the Monarch, whom he found already in his bed-chamber; the fair and wise Scherazade reposed by his side, and her sister Dinarzade occupied as usual a snug little camp-bed in the corner. This latter was not the person least anxious to hear the Prince's history; she had perceived, that he was young and handsome, and had even been kind enough to let him know, that she thought him so. To her great surprize he had taken no notice of her hints, and, anxious to know the reason of his backwardness, she waited for his narrative with impatience. At the Sultan's request he began it in the following words.

History of the PRINCE of TREBIZONDE.

—It is not to the ears of your most august and sublime Majesty, that fictitious tales should be related. For my own part, valuing myself upon the most scrupulous veracity, I shall follow your beautiful Sultana's example, and inform you of adventures no less true, than they would appear fabulous from any other lips than mine.

I shall only mention my birth so far as relates to my mother's strange superstition, that the happiness or misfortunes of my life would depend upon my name. Accordingly, not finding one to her taste among those adopted by my ancestors, she was on the point of consulting the oracle of Bactria, when her favourite parrot, for whom she had a great regard, took it into its head to repeat "Facardin," several times. This was enough to fix her irresolution, and she determined to honour me with this illustrious

appellation. I proceed to that period of my life, which is remarkable for the adventures about to have the happiness of being related to your majesty.

I quitted your court some days before the revolution, which took place on account of your first Sultana. When the news reached me, I had still two days' journey to perform, before I could reach my own dominions; and I must take the liberty to say, that I then disapproved your leaving court no less, than I have disapproved your conduct since your return. In my opinion you had better not have married again at all, than have secured your wife's fidelity by not giving her time to be unfaithful; that is to say, by beheading her on the morning after her nuptials.

I stayed at Trebizonde no longer, than was necessary to restrain my vassals within the limits of their obedience; for they were on the point of rebelling against your edict, by which it was supposed, that all other Sovereigns would regulate their conduct. I assured my subjects, that I had not the

least design to introduce the fashion at Trebizonde. Then having purchased the list of tournaments for the present year, as also a description of the most dangerous adventures to be met with throughout the universe, I set out with the design of rendering my singular name as celebrated, as it appears uncommon. Without vanity I may venture to say, that I have not quite failed in the attempt.

My preparations were quite different from those made by adventurers in general: instead of a squire to carry my armour and relate my exploits, I took with me a secretary to write them down; and never had poor secretary so much to do!

Fortune favoured me, wherever I went. No beauty could resist the graces of my person, and no hero the valour of my arm. However, I soon grew tired of being always beloved without ever loving; and if luckily I had not found every day some monster to kill or enchantment to destroy, I know not, what I must have done for amuse-

ment. My secretary, who was naturally a man of sense, and who was much improved by living in my society, endeavoured to comfort me by demonstrating, that there were misfortunes in life, even greater than those, of which I complained.

—" Heaven grant," said he, " that the happy Facardin never may know them, and that fortune may guide his steps, far from the fertile plains and dangerous climates of Astracan !"—

It was mid-day, and we found ourselves in the midst of a thick and pleasant forest. I was on the point of selecting some shady tree, beneath whose boughs I could seat myself to hear at my ease my secretary's account of this same Astracan, when we perceived two strangers advancing towards us, mounted on camels. The first attracted my attention, as well by his appearance as by the action which he performed, as soon as he came near us. His figure was the most noble and elegant that I ever had beheld; and his features were so beautiful, that

although accustomed to see me every day, my secretary could not forbear expressing his surprize and admiration. We had full time to examine him; for, stopping his camel opposite to us whom he did not observe, he took his helmet from the hands of his attendant; but instead of putting it on, as I expected, he sighed several times, and fixed his eyes tenderly upon a bird sparkling with gold and diamonds, which I took for an eagle, and whose extended wings overshadowed the helmet. After contemplating this image for some time, he kissed it respectfully; then returning the casque to his Squire, he passed on, still plunged in the same profound reverie, which had prevented his observing us.

It was then, that I reflected upon the words of my secretary; I could not but own, that a man really in love must be extremely discomposed at finding in his way such a rival as this stranger. I could not resist my curiosity to know his name; and my secretary having stopt the Squire to ask the question,

returned in dismay to inform me, that he was called Facardin !

—" Just Heavens !" cried I in astonishment ; " Facardin ?"—

At this exclamation, the handsome knight thinking that I had called him, turned his camel's head, and inquired my business.

—" I would only ask," said I, " whether is it possible, that your name should be Facardin ?"—

—" It is but too true," he replied ; " would to Heaven, that it were not, since I attribute to a secret fatality attached to this villainous name the greatest part of my misfortunes."—

—" May I inquire," demanded I, " what those misfortunes are ?"—

" You shall know," answered he very politely : " I should be the most constant man upon earth, if I were not as unfortunate in love, as for some time past my heart has been susceptible. Still I cannot complain that my mistresses have deceived me, for none has ever pretended to love me. It is true, the most adorable of mortals,

the only woman who ever beheld me without aversion, seemed for a moment to return my passion; but alas! she only proved her regard by putting me to a trial, whose remembrance makes my blood run cold. But to return to what I was saying, it is impossible, that although I want all other recommendations, my assiduity, attention, and complaisance should be unsuccessful everywhere, if this ridiculous name did not bring me bad luck!"—

—"How," said I, "can a man like you have offered his heart in vain, and can a person of so much sense as you seem to possess, imagine, that your name is the cause of your rejection?"—

—"It is the plain truth," continued he; "to convince you of it, I need only relate my adventures; but doubtless you must have more weighty employment, than listening to the history of my disappointments."—

I assured him, that just then I had nothing better to do; and to give him some

little hope, that his fortune would change, I addressed him as follows:

—" Be assured," said I, " noble stranger, that a name is only lucky or unlucky, according to the fortunes of the person who bears it. I know not from what country you come; but to judge by the wonders which you relate of their rigour and cruelty, the fair-ones who inhabit it can be no other than wild cats. I am called Facardin as well as yourself; but to show you how little the name signifies, know, though I have met with a hundred beauties in my travels, (some of whom were of the first distinction,) none of them ever cost me more than a single sigh. My secretary shall give you the list of them, with their address: pay them a visit, and when we meet again, you will tell a very different story."—

—" Alas!" replied the unknown, " though you found them lambs, to me they will prove tigresses! in every woman whom I address, never have I failed to excite disgust, the Matron of Mount Atlas excepted,

who must have excited disgust herself in hearts the least dainty and most susceptible. Listen to me for a few minutes, and you will be convinced of the truth of this assertion."—

We now quitted our camels, and while our attendants gathered dates and pomegranates for our refreshment, we chose in the thickest part of the forest a convenient place to repose: the stranger then addressed me as follows.

The History of FACARDIN of Mount Atlas.

I have vowed never to discover myself, so long as my heart shall remain thus ridiculously susceptible of first impressions, and my person thus universally scorned even by those very damsels, who to all others are very far from being cruel. You must excuse therefore the concealment of my birth;

neither will I mention the kingdom, which I quitted with the design of signalizing myself by some remarkable action. Suffice it to say, that my first object was probably the same, which has brought yourself and so many other adventurers into the field: I mean, the conquest of Moussellina the Serious, Heiress of Astracan. But although (as you already must know either by experience or by report) she is the most perfect of mortals, I undertook this adventure, less from curiosity to behold, or wish to possess her, than from ambition to perform a task so difficult, I may say indeed, so impossible. Glory was then my heart's only passion: on the subject of love I felt the most absolute indifference.

As yet I have met with no more than two adventures, which can merit your attention: the first happened in the Isle of Lions, and gave rise to the second, which took place upon Mount Atlas: the circumstances were as follows.

At two days' journey from that famous mountain, on whose summit, if poets tell the truth, Heaven and the zodiac recline, a vast forest extends itself to the very brink of the sea. This forest is filled with animals of every kind, those of prey alone excepted; and we met them in such multitudes, that it was frequently by no means easy to force a passage through them. The inhabitants of a small town, which is situated on its confines, afterwards informed us, that all the lions of the surrounding deserts used formerly to quit them for the sake of hunting in this forest, and that having eat up the stags, goats, and hares, they proceeded to eat up the men, women, and children. In this distress the people had recourse to the enchanter Caramoussal, who resides on the mountain's summit; by whose spells the whole lion-nation was banished to a small island, which I easily saw from that part of the shore where the sea bathed the foot of Mount Atlas. Unluckily, in consequence of this emigration, the stags and hares had

multiplied so prodigiously, that the distress was nearly as great as during the reign of the lions; the enormous herds, which I had observed in my way through the forest, spreading their ravages to all quarters, and devouring the whole produce of the country. To remedy this complaint, a hunting-match was made every year into the neighbouring isle, not with the intention of disturbing or hurting the lions, but of taking a dozen, and turning them loose in the forest. I was also informed that this hunting-match was to take place in two days, and that if I chose it, I might be present at it.

By any other than a knight-errant, a lion-hunt might not have been thought a party of pleasure; but I accepted the offer with great joy.

The rendezvous of the hunters was on the shore opposite to the Isle of Lions: the isle seemed to be tolerably extensive, of a wild aspect, and much wooded. The preparations for this chace surprized me not a little. I expected to find plenty of huntsmen

armed with darts, arrows, and clubs, besides dogs of all sorts and sizes. Instead of this, I only saw twenty men accompanied by the same number of girls, young and by no means ugly: each girl held a cock upon her wrist, and the boats in which we embarked, were well supplied with strong nets. As we approached the isle, we could hear roaring and howls so loud and terrible, that my Squire, though naturally brave enough, was evidently by no means at his ease: yet not one of our nymphs was in the least disconcerted.

The shore was soon entirely covered by troops of these polite lions, who waited impatiently to receive us. I did not see the possibility of disembarking, in front of an enemy so tremendous: but three of our vessels touching the shore before the rest, three stags were instantly turned out, whom the lions pursuing, the entrance of the isle was left clear for us. As soon as we landed, we advanced into the depth of the forest; and here, while the men spread their

nets, the women covered the cocks with small hoods, similar to those which are put on falcons. Scarcely were the nets spread, when the lions returned to us at full speed: there were about two dozen of them, and all, as far as I could judge, were lions with good stomachs. But as we only wanted three or four at a time, one of the girls unhooded her cock, and pulled him twice or thrice by the tail. The spot, in which we stood, was so dark, that the bird imagined that day was breaking, and began to crow with all his might. The lions at this were so terrified, that they fled from us with all expedition, one excepted, who fell into our toils. He was immediately embarked with one of the huntsmen, and the girl whose cock had just crowed. Though the lion was sufficiently entangled in the net to prevent his doing any harm, it was thought right to put a kid into the same boat, to prevent his thinking the voyage tedious.

This mode of hunting, which appeared to me not more novel than entertaining,

lasted, till every sportsman had embarked with his lion, his lady, and her bird. I insisted upon being the last, the person who brought up the rear running the greatest risque; and I sent off my Squire in the last boat which left the island, the one, which had brought me, remaining for my own use.

Being a stranger, the girl of the best courage, and the cock with the shrillest voice, were assigned to me for fear of accidents. The damsel began to instruct me respecting the best means of retreating; but enraged to see the cocks carry off all the honour of the expedition, I begged her to keep hers silent, till I had measured my strength against one of the lions, observing, that in case several attacked me at once, she would always have time enough to come to my assistance, and interrupt a combat so unequal. I saw by her looks that she did not above half like the proposal; but at the moment that she prepared to reply, the lions returned to the attack.

Drawing my sword, I advanced to meet

them : at their head was the most formidable monster, that I ever beheld; his mane bristled, and his eyes glared with rage. By accident too this lion was deaf as any post; which I soon discovered, for my companion, (terrified at his enormous size,) made her cock crow without a moment's delay, and its cry was so horribly discordant and so shrill, that it went through and through my head completely. All the lions, except that which I have just mentioned, were immediately seized with a sudden panic, and tumbled over each other in their hurry to escape.

The girl and the cock squalled and crowed till they were hoarse, and the noise which they made was even more disagreeable, than the company of the lion. Without vanity the beginning of our engagement well deserved the observation of more calm and illustrious spectators. I soon drew blood from my antogonist in several places: but in return he gave me a scratch, which beginning at the right ear descended like a scarf, to the extremity of my left heel. I had

but little skill, neither indeed had my adversary; but then he was furnished with a tail, which annoyed me even more than his claws. As it grew late, I took my sword in both hands, meaning to end the contest at once, before the night arrived: the lion, who, according to all appearance, had the very same intention, rose immediately upon his hind legs, at the same time opening for my accommodation a mouth so enormous as to exceed all measure, all rule, all probability! In her terror at this sight, the girl let the cock slip from her hand; the lion left me to run after the cock, and I left the girl to run after the lion. I soon overtook him, but not time enough to save the unfortunate cock, whom he had already seized, and whom he swallowed before my eyes, as you would do a sugar-plumb.

This affront added fresh fuel to my wrath. So much was I transported with rage, that without observing the attitude into which the lion had put himself, I struck off his right paw, with which he endeavoured to

make me understand that he was willing to capitulate. The ground was deluged by the blood, which gushed from the wound. I still kept upon my guard, not doubting that the violence of his attacks would be redoubled by the thirst of vengeance; but vengeance was the last thing in his thoughts: on the contrary, supporting himself against a tree, he cast on me a piteous glance, and sighed—"Ah! Facardin!"—

This appeal affected me, and I was on the point of approaching to assist him, when the cries of my companion summoned me to her succour. She was exerting all her strength to retain the boat, which had broken its cord during the battle; and as she knew this to be our only resource, she made every possible effort to prevent its escaping. Finding, as soon as I joined her, that instead of embarking I prepared to fasten the boat again to the shore, she was ready to go distracted. I told her, that I would sooner die than abandon in such a forlorn situation the unfortunate lion, who had

addressed me in a manner so affecting; that I was going in search of him, in order that I might transport him with me to the continent; and that it was my firm resolution to give him all the assistance in my power. She exclaimed vehemently against a proposal, which appeared to her the height of extravagance, and besought me on her knees, not to expose her as well as myself for the sake of an old dead lion to the fury of all the living lions in the islands. She talked in vain: I returned to the place, where I had left him; but it was without success that I sought him both there and in the adjacent parts of the forest.

In consequence I was obliged to regain the boat, heartily ashamed of not bringing back a lion, like the other hunters. But my companion's distress is not to be described. She told me, that the loss of her cock had dishonoured her and her whole family for ever, and that she never could survive so signal a disgrace.

I was still endeavouring to alleviate her despair, which I thought not a little ridiculous, when we reached the foot of Mount Atlas.

It was almost dark. I had lost much blood, and suffered greatly from thirst. Having, in spite of his request to stay, had the attention to send back my Squire, I expected that he in return would have the attention to wait for me on the river's bank, or else at the foot of the mountain; but nobody appeared. My companion, growing more desperate with every moment, resolved to attempt gaining the summit of Mount Atlas, and implore Caramoussal's assistance; or in case the magician refused his aid, to precipitate herself from such place, as might seem to her most convenient. To prevent the execution of the latter design, I followed her as long as it was possible; but losing her in the obscurity, which prevented my observing the winding paths through which she passed, after much wandering about the clifts, I was obliged to seat

myself in that part which seemed to me most level, and resolved upon passing the night in that situation. Scarcely had I taken my place, when I heard the distant and agreeable noise of a rivulet, which flowed among these solitary rocks. So tormenting was my thirst, that heedless of fatigué, or the dangerous precipices by which I was surrounded, I bent my steps towards the spot whence the sound proceeded. I was certain, that I approached it; still I should have found it difficult to reach, if, by dint of examining, I had not discovered just above me a faint ray of light. I took this for my guide. As I approached, by degrees the light grew stronger, and I fancied, that I could distinguish the noise of spinning-wheels. I was not mistaken. By the blaze of two large torches, placed on each side of the door of a wretched hut, I perceived two lean and withered arms, with hands suitable, which, passing through two holes in the door, managed a wheel, and spun with more grace, than their appearance promised.

Having admired for some moments this discreet and mysterious mode of working, I pushed against the door without knocking. It opened without difficulty, and I beheld the spinner, the rest of whose person was certainly worthy of the specimen, which I had already seen. Her face was like an old parchment pasted upon a death's head; she was naked to the waist, and never was corpse more dry or wasted than her miserable body. I turned away my eyes, and demanded something to quench my thirst.

—"In this abode," she replied, "you shall want nothing, if you will but have patience, and can resist your inclinations and conquer your dislikes."—

Thus saying, she embraced me, before I was aware of her intention. Then placing me by her, she perceived, that my cloaths were bloody. She shuddered, alarmed at my situation, of the danger of which I was myself ignorant.

—"Your death would have been inevitable," said she, "had the succour, which

I am going to give you, been delayed another hour."—

Thus saying, she began to undress me, and examining my wound from top to bottom, she pressed me in her odious arms most affectionately, every now and then kissing the place from whence she wiped the blood. The intolerable disgust, with which her endearments inspired me, did not escape her; but in spite of these marks of aversion, she continued to anoint my wound with an essence, whose odour perfumed the whole hovel.

—"Senseless youth!" said she; "knew you the treasure which you reject, and which, I see, you will lose, how fervent would be your gratitude, how different your emotions!"—

I was so much recovered and refreshed by this first dressing, that I needed not a second to be in perfect health. I now only wished to quench my thirst, and free myself from my disagreeable hostess. I therefore requested her to satisfy the first and most

urgent of my necessities, since the succour, which she had just given me, would be unavailing, if she suffered me to die of drought.

—"I must put you then to that trial," said she, "which I foresee, you will be unable to sustain. Follow me."—

So decrepit was she, that she raised herself with the utmost difficulty; and her person gave me so much disgust, that I could not bring myself to afford her any support. She was quite bent double, and in spite of the crutch on which she leaned, I thought, she never could drag herself out of the first apartment, the most dirty and miserable one that I ever beheld. The next was rather better, and the third much larger, and tolerably furnished; but the last was the most magnificent room perhaps in the universe. It appeared to be rather the fabled habitation of some fairy, than the apartment of a mortal. Nothing was to be seen but glasses, admirable pictures, and furniture the most costly.

On one side stood an elegant toilette, displaying a variety of jewels; on the other, a bed, covered with Chinese gold and oriental pearls in embroidery, seemed only to wait the Divinity's arrival, for whose use they were prepared: not far from the toilette I perceived an undress, fit for the wearing of an Empress of eighteen.

It took us a considerable time to reach this chamber; for besides that the old lady moved very deliberately, she never suffered me to enter any apartment, before she had passed her hands through two holes in the door, and spun for a few moments, as I found her doing on my arrival. My thirst was much irritated by this delay; still its violence was suspended for some instants, while I gazed on the objects contained in the latter chamber. But my companion soon interrupted this examination.

—"Come!" said she, taking my hand; "let us to the fountain. What you behold here can only serve to excite flames in your bosom, and what you want is water to

cool those which burn there already. Follow me, and you shall be satisfied."—

It was unnecessary for her to say this twice; I followed her eagerly. The fountain was within a few yards of the magnificent chamber, and from thence had the sound proceeded, which first induced me to search for water. As soon as I beheld it, I rushed open-mouthed towards the largest sheet, which fell from the rock above; but the provoking old woman detained me by the arm.

—"Hear me for the last time!" she cried; "if resisting your inclination to quench your thirst, you can resolve to pass a whole hour in my arms without tasting this water, I will reconduct you to the chamber through which I led you, and you shall be at liberty to pass the remainder of the night with me on that superb couch, which you have just beheld."—

Wishing to accompany this proposal with a tender glance, she turned upon me two little pig's eyes, which rather resembled a

dog's just dead of the mange, than a human creature's! As for me, in the perfect indifference to beauty which I then felt, and in the violence of thirst so immoderate, I should have preferred three glasses of cold water to the three graces. I therefore shook off her hold rather rudely, ran to the fountain, and began to drink as eagerly, as if I feared seeing the stream fail, before my thirst was satisfied.

The lady, to whom I had not thought proper to sacrifice this pleasure, retired while I was drinking, and probably not in the best humour. That, however, was to me a matter of absolute indifference. I now found myself perfectly easy and contented; sleep came upon me, and I accepted its advances without hesitation.

It was broad day, when I awoke, and much was I surprised to find myself in a spot, the most horrible that I had ever seen! I gazed around me, striving in vain to comprehend, how I had got into such a desert, or how I should get out of it. The stream, of

which I had drank the night before, gushed from the summit of a rock seemingly detached from the rest of the mountain, and I found myself stationed upon this summit. I could perceive the roofs of the hut and of the enchanted palace, which had excited in me such admiration: but I was separated from them, by a precipice so tremendous, that I shuddered, whenever my eye dared to measure its depth; and on every side I was surrounded by beetling rocks, which, instead of offering me a passage, seemed leaning forward for the express purpose of tumbling themselves upon me. Fully persuaded that I had not been transported to this place through the air, I persisted in my perilous search after some out-let, and at length I succeeded in my inquiry. It was the entrance of a cavern equally obscure and deep, which seemed rather the retreat of some wild beast, than a passage to scenes less tremendous. However, I resolved to examine it, and drawing my sword, I descended into this gloomy cave; hopeless of finding any

other issue, than that by which I had entered. But after many difficulties, I felt, that the ground rose, and perceived a feeble glimmering of light which guided me to the spot, where day penetrated into this subterraneous abyss. This second outlet was totally different from the first: it was a spacious grotto, ornamented with shells and marble statues: a bow of polished steel hung on one side; on the other was a quiver, ornamented with gold and jewels, and filled with arrows; and in the middle of the grotto a large cage of jet inlaid with ivory was suspended from the roof. I was so eager to get out of the scrape in which I found myself, that without staying to reflect on what I saw, I hastened out of the cave, and was near treading upon something sparkling which lay a few paces from the door. It was a shoe, whose buckle was formed of four diamonds, the most perfect and brilliant that I ever beheld: but the shoe itself was so small, and so exquisitely shaped, that I bestowed no thought upon the

immense worth of the buckle. Having read, that Pallas, when she walks, makes the earth tremble and the forests shake, and that the immortal Juno takes but one stride from Mount Ida to the Isle of Samos, I was tolerably certain, that I had not found the shoe of a goddess; but I determined to discover the mortal, if it were possible, whose foot could be worthy to wear so delicately formed a slipper.

I brought it away with me, though I did not expect to retain its possession long; for I guest it to be the lady's property, whose hunting accoutrements I had seen in the grotto, or else that it belonged to the other invisible nymph, for whom the toilette was prepared in the old woman's hovel. I was still hesitating, whether I should return there to seek her, or had better wait in the grotto, till some one should come thither to look for the shoe, when I was induced to abandon both designs by hearing cries and lamentations proceed from the rock above. I ascended it in haste; for the voice seemed

to be a female's, and since my finding this slipper, my heart was wonderfully softened in favour of a sex, for which till then I had felt the most perfect indifference. I soon discovered, that the mourner was no other than my nymph of the cock! As soon as she saw me, she fell at my feet entreating me to plunge my sword in her bosom. I was by no means disposed to grant her this favour, for she had already inspired me with a tender inclination. I raised her respectfully, and having assured her, that I would hazard my life in the attempt to extricate her from her difficulties, I was on the point of seating myself by her, in order to hear at my ease the cause of her affliction; when she gave me a look of surprize, eyed me from head to foot, as if she had never seen me before, and removed immediately to some distance.

—"Be good enough," said she, "to sit a little farther off, for you seem to me so disagreeable, that I cannot suffer you to come so near me."—

I obeyed with all humility, and the impertinent creature, turning away her head, that she might not see me while she spoke, addrest me as follows:

—" Before I disclose the cause of my despair, which perhaps appears to you ridiculous, you must know, that the cocks, which you have seen, are only entrusted to those damsels, who like myself are distinguished either for rank or merit. Three grand hunting-matches are held every year, similar to that unlucky one, at which you were present yesterday, and those young women, who in four years bring home twelve lions are united to the lovers, who attend on them during those four years. In the mean time they see their admirers at all hours; but 'tis as much as their lives are worth, to grant the least favour, till the twelve lions are taken. Should a cock make his escape, 'tis a sign, that there has been some little impropriety in the conduct of his mistress; however, if the bird is found again, the crime is not capital; but at the

end of three days, if he is still absent, it is a convincing proof of a criminal intercourse, and the seceder from virtue is immediately buried alive. It is this, which causes my despair: my cock never can be found again, since I saw it with my own eyes devoured by that brute of a lion. Wretch that I am! Why did he not devour me at the same time? Why did I not perish without knowing the most amiable of mankind; or why did not all the men whom I have ever known appear to me as ugly and disagreeable as you do?"—

Insults so broad would have offended most people; but the worse that she treated me, the more did I admire her, and I was still endeavouring to express my growing passion, when her lover made his appearance. I immediately recognized him for one of our hunters, nor was my companion slow in showing his recollection of him—She instantly flew towards him with open arms, and professed herself happy, before she was deprived for ever of the light

of day, once more to behold the beams of his bright eyes. Now this lover of hers was bandy-legged, pug-nosed, and copper-coloured; and the bright eyes, which she raved about (like a Chinese pig's), never had known what it was to be quite open. Having embraced her tenderly, he told her, that guessing her distress, he had provided a boat, which then waited at the foot of the mountain, and that he could easily carry her off, if I, who had reduced her to this extremity, would for one hour protect them from the Matron's monster.

—" And who is the Matron's monster?" said I.—

—" You will know but too soon," he answered, " for he is looking for his lady's slipper, which I see in your hand."—

This said, he clasped his mistress in his arms, and hastened with her towards the sea with all expedition. At first I felt a little jealous, b t no sooner were they out of sight, than I thought no more of them. Adventures had succeeded each other so ra-

pidly on this mountain, that scarcely could I persuade myself, that I was not in a dream; but more were yet behind, for it now happened.....

—"'Tis you, who dream," interrupted Dinarzade impatiently; "you are desired to relate your own adventures, which in the present posture of affairs you should have told as concisely as possible; and instead of this you weary us with another person's, accompanied with details so uninteresting, that it is a doubt, whether they are most tedious or trifling."—

—"And what does it signify," cried the Sultan, "whose adventures he relates, so that they amuse me, and last out the night? What have I better to do, than to hear them? Go on, Facardin," he added, "and heed not the remarks of these chatterboxes, who never are satisfied, but when they are talking themselves."—

Dinarzade bit her lips with impatience. The fair Sultana, who had now passed a thousand nights in bed, with nothing bet-

ter to amuse her, than tales only fit to set one a sleep, raised her eyes devoutly to heaven, and Facardin of Trebizonde proceeded thus:

—"If I remember right, I was interrupted in that part of the stranger's history, where he informed me, that he fancied himself to have been dreaming, while revolving the variety of events, to which so short a space of time had given rise. "I now endeavoured," he continued, "to regain the grotto; but instead of taking the path by which I had ascended the rock, I followed one, which, after a tedious journey, conducted me to the Matron's abode. The door was open; the spinning-wheel was still there, but no hands were employed in turning it. Finding no longer so insuperable an aversion for a female, whose first appearance had so much disgusted me, I resolved to enter, and review the wonders of the beautiful apartment. I held the slipper in my hand; I ceased not for a moment to admire it, and I frequently prest it

to my lips as fondly, as if it had been the portrait of a mistress most passionately beloved.

Just as I prepared to enter the hut, I was stopped by an enormous giant, armed with a huge club, and covered with rough hair from head to foot. His manner of accosting me surprized me considerably, for his gestures were much less gentle, and his looks much more savage than the lion's, whom I had the honour of killing the day before. The first thing, which he did on seeing me, was to take his club in both hands, and gnash his teeth like a wild boar: the second was to thank Heaven for throwing the thief in his way, who had stolen his lady's slipper; and he then proceeded to assure me, that he should already have dashed out the few brains which the gods had given me, if the Matron his mistress had not commanded him to reserve me for torments the most excruciating. From the sound of the voice which uttered it, I fancied, that some bull was pleased to make me this civil

speech; after which the giant continuing his discourse, ordered me to surrender the slipper, and follow him without delay.

—"I should find it less trouble," said he, "to take it from you by force, than to ask you for it; but my mistress has commanded me to make you restore it through fear of my prowess, and therefore down upon your knees this moment."—

—"Are those your mistress's commands?" said I; "then pray, present my best respects to her, and tell her from me, that neither you nor all your fellow-monsters put together shall make me surrender a shoe, whose beauty has charmed me, and which I did not obtain by dishonourable means."—

As I said this, I saw, that the wild dromedary had already raised his club to crush me, and I instansly drew my sword. His strength was prodigious; but as he was not very expert, I easily avoided his blows, the gentlest of which was sufficient to shiver the rocks in pieces, and overturn the sur-

rounding trees. However, as I contrived to draw blood from him every time that he missed me, I should probably have finished the combat unhurt, had it not been my fate to get scratched in this land of wonders. It seems, that the giant had a nail on the great toe of his right foot, which the Erymanthian boar might have been proud of. This I did not discover for some time, but at length I had good reason to perceive it; for as I stooped to escape a blow from his club, which he pretended to aim at me, he found an opportunity of giving me a slash by no means inferior to that, which I had received from the lion the day before. This incensed me so highly, that with a furious blow I lopped off the leg, to whose foot was attached the weapon, which had favoured me with so respectable a wound. His fall was like that of a tower's, and the earth trembled as he touched it. I threw myself upon him intending to strike his ugly head from his shoulders; but a voice, which

proceeded from the hut, made me hold my hand.

— "Valiant knight," cried the voice, "kill not my monster."—

I obeyed, and quitting him, entered the hovel, intending to present the matron with the slipper which force could not oblige me to surrender, and to explain, that I had not obtained it by discreditable means. I now supposed, that it must belong to some daughter or niece of hers, for whom in all probability the chamber and clothes were prepared, which I had seen the night before.

But in vain did I traverse the various apartments; no one appeared; and part of the garments, which I had seen near the toilette, had been taken away. Hoping to obtain from him some intelligence of his mistress, I returned to the place where I had left the giant; but he also was gone, and had carried away his leg with him. Though I had lost a considerable quantity of blood, I did not find myself much weak-

ened, and was only sensible of hunger to a degree not less violent, than had been the thirst, which tormented me the night before. I resolved to look for something to appease the first, where I had so lately succeeded in appeasing the second; but the hovel door closed at my approach, nor could all my efforts suffice to open it. The grotto was now my only resource—I sought it for some time without success, nor perhaps should I ever have found it, had I not been conducted thither by the agreeable smell of roast meat—With an appetite like mine I could not have met with a guide more acceptable: I followed it with joy; and no sooner did I reach the grotto, than I was more than ever convinced, that I must certainly be dreaming.

How beautiful was the form, which on my entrance presented itself to my admiration! A nymph in a hunting-dress was reclining on a magnificent sopha, and looked in that attitude, as if the queen of love had borrowed Diana's garments to follow to the

chace some new Adonis. Part of her bosom was uncovered; and that part was in my opinion worth all the treasures, which the caverns of the earth, the billows of the sea, or the women in the universe can possibly manage to conceal. Her petticoat was tucked up on one side, and fastened above her knee by a diamond buckle, similar to that which ornamented the beautiful slipper; and the leg, which by this means was displayed, was so exquisitely turned, as to make me certain, that it could not possibly be the property of a mortal. As soon as she saw me, she gazed on me for a few moments with attention.

— "Though the aversion with which your ridiculous deformity inspires me," said she, "and the esteem which I cannot deny to your valour, are now combating within my bosom, I am still willing to offer you the means of securing your own happiness, and at the same time of contributing to mine. You have found my slipper," she continued, "and your presumption in touching it is

expiated in some degree by the intrepidity, with which you asserted your claim to it, Had you surrendered it to the giant, there would have been an end for ever of your hopes and mine, for in the man, who would possess me, courage is an indispensible qualification. But before I proceed, let me prove to you, that this shoe is really mine; here is my foot; approach, and put it on."

I obeyed with mingled tenderness and respect, and while kneeling before her, my transports were so violent, that I scarcely knew what I was about. The shoe was put on with all imaginable ease; after which she bade me take it off again, and then inquired, what had conducted me to the grotto. I now for the first time recollected my necessities, and I told her, that I was dying of hunger, with a look as fond and languishing, as if I had told her, that I was dying of love.

—"What!" she exclaimed; "ever these gross and sensual desires? Last night you visited the Matron, because you were dry,

and this morning your only reason for visiting me is because you are hungry! But no matter; I shall soon discover, whether you deserve the misfortune, which you have drawn upon yourself by drinking, and whether you will make yourself worthy of that glorious fate which will be yours, as soon as you shall have eaten sufficiently. As I am impatient to know, whether you really merit the advantages, which the stars appear to promise you, take this bow without delay, and let me see, whether you can bend it."—

I obeyed, persuaded that I should find this task as easy, as the putting on her slipper: but it was not without considerable efforts, that I at length succeeded. No sooner was the deed performed, than the string of the bow produced a sound so melodious, that it could only be equalled by that, which proceeded from the cage of Jet; whose door opening at that moment, a large bird flew out with such swiftness, as to prevent my distinguishing its species.

Surprized at the adventure which I had just accomplished, the nympth surveyed me with attention, but almost instantaneously turned away her head again, as if her eyes had been shocked by some disgusting object.

—"Take an arrow from yonder quiver," said she; "look upwards, and aim at whatever you see in the air."—

I left the grotto, and thought I could distinguish a fly far above me. As nothing else was to be seen, I discharged my arrow at it, which was soon out of sight: but just when I supposed it to be in the middle region of the air (so long was it ere it descended), I saw it fall at my feet, loaded with the largest cock that I ever beheld.

The nymph ran towards the bird, kissed it thrice affectionately, and drew out the arrow; on which the cock sprang into the air as if nothing had happened, and disappeared in a few moments. This exploit seemed to inspire the fair huntress with more respect for me, though not enough to abate her aversion.

—" Yes," said she; " you must certainly be the person destined to release me; yet if I owe my deliverance to you, how can I endure to pass my life with a man, whose appearance is no less disgusting and ridiculous, than his actions are glorious and sublime? Prince, be careful of my slipper; seek through every region of the earth, nor present yourself again before me, till you have found a foot that can fit my shoe, a woman that can love you, or a cock that can fly as high as that which you have just seen. Having presented me with one of these three wonders, you will only need to obtain the Matron's favours, to entitle you to mine: but without this last condition, and one or other of the first three, I shall always be unfortunate, and you never will be happy. However, before you set out in search of these adventures, I must put you to a preliminary trial. You remember, I suppose, that in spite of all entreaties to the contrary, you insisted last night upon drinking: to punish you for this obstinacy, I now inform you,

that however great may be your disgust, you are expected to eat whatever may be set before you, without being desired at all."—

I asked no better: I thought, that nothing could be served up at the table of a person so elegant, that could possibly baulk an appetite so voracious as mine: but when I examined what was placed before me, it was a wonder that I kept from fainting. You never could guess, valiant knight, what composed this diabolical ragout; I am therefore obliged to explain, that the dish contained the giant's leg, not forgetting the foot, and the large nail that adorned it!

The sight made my hair bristle with horhor; I turned sick, and was leaving the grotto, anxious to escape from so disgusting an object, when without speaking the nymph heaved a deep sigh, and gave me a look no less expressing pity, than resentment. That look was sufficient to determine my conduct: I closed my eyes, tore off a morsel, from the leg, and

swallowed it. Having obeyed thus far, I again prepared to retire, assuring my hostess, that I should feel no desire to eat for at least the next four days. She seemed much softened by my compliance, fixed her eyes upon me more steadily than before, and so much delighted me by the change which I perceived in their expression, that I got down a little bit more. On this she drew nearer, placed her hand familiarly upon my shoulder, and told me, that although she would not ask it of me, it was necessary for me to pick the whole leg to the bones.

—" I feel the charm's effect," said she; " my heart tells me, that the first spell is on the point of being dissolved. Persevere, and you need not go far to find a woman, who loves you; but if you leave this place, or if your meal is interrupted, before you can empty the dish, you will become, if possible, more disagreeable to me, than you are at present."—

These words touched my heart, and pro-

duced no slight effect upon my head: they animated my courage, but alas! they did not augment my appetite. However, though the leg was sufficient to feed ten famished persons, since such was the condition of my trial, I resolved to use every effort to fulfil it; and I determined either to swallow the whole, or to burst bravely before the eyes of my Divinity! It was in the very midst of this magnanimous attempt, that my confounded Squire, who probably had been seeking me for some time, made the rocks re-echo with the name of Facardin. Suddenly the nymph changed colour; she seemed irresolute for a few moments, and then finding that I was the object of pursuit, she hastened into the subterraneous passage, leaving me more confounded, more surprized, and more afflicted, than I have power to express. I had perceived, that her glances grew milder; the wound given me by the giant closed, while I was employed in eating his leg; and the presence of the most lovely creature in the universe, who reclined affection-

ately upon my shoulder, had enabled me to support the horror of my trial. But no sooner did she leave me, than forgetting her injunctions I forsook my horrible repast, and flew towards the passage, by which she had departed: the moment that I approached it, a strong and rushing wind not only opposed my entrance, but raised me with violence from the ground, and blew me out of the grotto. As soon as I was on the outside, the door (which had two holes in it similar to those in the door, which protected the Matron's cottage) closed of its own accord; through these holes two arms, whiter than snow, and more beautiful than Cytherea's, immediately passed themselves; an ebony spinning-wheel inlaid with gold placed itself spontaneously before them, and the spinning recommenced with more diligence than ever. I was now convinced, that the Divinity whom I had just seen was the Matron's daughter, and that spinning was a favorite occupation in this enchanted family. I drew nearer, with the

intention of throwing myself on my knees before the nymph, of whom I saw nothing but the arms, and of conjuring her in pity to open the door; when my Squire, having at length discovered me, began to bawl out my name louder than ever. Immediately the beautiful hands disappeared; the grotto-door opened with violence; and the giant putting out his head, blew in my face with such force, that he rolled both my Squire and myself down to the place, where I had first distinguished the ray of light, which had guided me to the Matron's cottage. When I recovered from my fall, my Squire informed me, that it was high time to be gone, and he conjured me to descend with all expedition, while it was still in my power to escape.

—"What could put it in your head," said he, "to climb this confounded mountain, which is crammed full of sorcerers and enchantments, while all the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages were in search of you? I waited till midnight by

the river side; and then supposing, that while I was looking for you there, you must have landed somewhere else, in hopes of finding you I hastened to the next village; but here I was told rare news of you: it was reported, that you had either seduced or ravished the girl, who was left with you on the island; that her cock was lost; that you had disembarked with her, and that both had concealed yourselves in the cavities of the mountain to avoid the punishment of your offence. In consequence all the inhabitants assembled this morning at day-break; a council was held; the troops were ordered to march; and one part of them undertaking to surround the mountain, and bar every avenue, the other ascended it, and dispersed themselves through all the various paths, by which it was possible for you to have passed. Now then, my dear master, I gave you up for lost. They had secured me, fearful lest I should apprize you of their designs; and they assured me very seriously, that I should have

the honour to share your punishment. I was almost distracted to think, that a man, who had always been so prudent and so indifferent respecting this sort of frailty, as you have been, should at length throw away his life thus foolishly for the sake of a vulgar hussy and her dunghill cock. In the midst of these melancholy reflections, a loud shout, proceeding from that side of the mountain which was nearest the sea, augmented my distress; for it was immediately reported that you had been seized in the very act of eloping with your new mistress. How great was my joy, when I beheld the captives. The companion of this unlucky girl was one of the hunters, who it seems had been long attached to her. Their doom was pronounced without delay: and though they continued to assert their innocence, the lover was compelled to dig a pit, into which he put his mistress up to the neck, after tenderly embracing her, and taking a most affectionate farewell. The pit was then filled up again; but at the very moment

that nothing of the damsel was visible except her head, and which was also on the point of disappearing, a cock was heard to crow in the air above her.

All raised their eyes; the noise was heard again, but still nothing could be distinguished. At length one of the principal persons drew a telescope from his pocket, and declared, that it was a gnat mimicking the crowing of a cock: on the other hand the lover asserted, that it was the identical cock which his mistress had lost, and swore by the great Caramoussal, that he recognized him by his manner of crowing. While they were still debating this question, a real live cock, which had raised itself higher, than ever cock had done before, descended, and perched upon the damsel's head. The universal acclamations gave him not the least alarm; he kept his place with great intrepidity, while the whole company agreed in thinking, that this prodigy was effected by the great Caramoussal, and was a convincing proof of the girl's innocence:

but no sooner did they approach in order to restore her to liberty, than the cock stretched out his neck, clapped his wings, crowed thrice, and then darting into the air with the swiftness of a faulcon, in a moment was out of sight. This persuaded the spectators, that her conduct with her lover had not been perfectly correct; but as the cock in clapping his wings, had put out her left eye, he was supposed to have meant this as a punishment for granting trifling favors, and she was declared fully justified of any capital offence. In consequence, she was immediately released both from the pit and her apprehensions; she was conducted home to her parents in triumph; and while they were busied in dressing her eye, I hastened hither to conjure you to leave a country, where the mountains are full of sorcerers, the islands of lions, and the villages of men, women, and cocks, who for any thing that I can see, are not a jot better than the sorcerers or the lions."—

The truth of this account was confirmed

by my adventures on the mountain. I resolved therefore to follow my Squire's advice, and we left this repository of prodigies and incomprehensible events without meeting any further impediment. The more that I revolved upon what had passed, the less was I persuaded, that it had really happened. The lion, who had called me by my name; the old woman, who loved me so tenderly; the young one, who hated me so inveterately; the nymph of the grotto, who enjoined me to do, what could not be done; the water, which I drank with such eagerness, and the meat, which I eat with such disgust; all appeared to have been equally delusions: but the precious slipper was still in my possession, and that was sufficient to establish the reality of all the rest. I caused this helmet to be made at the nearest city; and this cock enriched with diamonds, clapping his wings, and in the act of crowing, conceals the wonderful shoe, which I shall now offer to your admiration."—

Here opening the crest of his helmet, the courteous stranger drew forth the shoe, which he had praised so highly; it was concealed within the golden cock, which I had at first mistaken for an eagle. I confess, most illustrious Sultan, the sight of it filled me with surprize. This slipper was in truth a master-piece, no less in respect to shape, than size and elegance. I could not look at it without emotion, though I was convinced, that it was made solely to display the artist's workmanship, and could not have been designed for the use of any human being. In vain did the stranger protest, that his own hands had placed it on the foot of the fair huntress: I persisted in my incredulity. Having examined it for some time, and with the owner's permission prest it respectfully to my lips, I at length restored it to its former concealment: after which Facardin of Mount Atlas resumed his narration.

—"The insignificant adventures," said he, "which I met with after this, are un-

worthy your attention; nor will I trouble you with the tedious list of refusals, insults and disdain, which fell to my lot, wherever my vows were offered. I thought every woman deserving my affection, and every woman thought my affection undeserving her acceptance. They, who were no longer in the bloom of life, preferred their servants, and they, who were, preferred mine. However, if all refused me their favors, none refused to try on the shoe; but here, alas! I was no less unsuccessful: not one could get in a single toe. No hope now remained for me but to find a cock which could raise itself as high as that of the fair huntress; that is to say, a cock, that could fly like an eagle. To my sorrow, I find, that this is no less a rarity, than a woman who can love me, or a foot that can fit the beautiful slipper.

I had already traversed Asia and Africa, and was on the point of embarking for Europe, when the ambassadors of Fortimbrass with the great mouth, king of Denmark,

arrived at the port of Sidon. They told us, that they were in pursuit of a mouth proportioned like their master's, and expressed their fears, that their search would be unsuccessful. To justify these apprehensions. they drew from a golden casket the exact measure of the royal mouth, and a most enormous one it was in truth! I owned, that though I had travelled far and wide, I never had met with a mouth at all to be compared to it; and I begged to be informed, when he had found it, what in the world their master meant to do with a mouth so monstrous. I was answered, that this desire was excited by a most strange and unfortunate adventure, which they had not then time to explain; on this the chief ambassador, who seemed a person of no small consequence, sighed several times, and at length burst into tears. The eyes of his companions immediately overflowed; and both my Squire and myself, were too well bred not to follow their example,

though what these venerable persons were crying about, we could not conceive.

—" Adieu! my beloved country!" exclaimed at length the chief ambassador; " we bid you an eternal adieu, forbidden to revisit your happy climates, till two things are found, neither of which the earth can furnish."—

Guessing, that the large mouth must be one of those things, I begged him to inform me, what was the other. He replied, that his master had a daughter, on whom he doated; she was extremely beautiful, and called Sapinella of Jutland. This damsel, not being able to get slippers to fit her, had gone mad in consequence, and persuaded her father to hang up all the coblers in the kingdom. Informed of the difficulty to please her, and dreading the fate of their comrades, the foreign shoe-makers had refused to work for her; and at length things were brought to such a pass, that yielding to his affection for her, the king had pub-

lished throughout his dominions, that whoever could shoe the beautiful Sapinella, should marry her for his trouble. It was however specified in the bargain, that such as failed in the attempt, should be hung with as little ceremony, as had been shown to their predecessors.

—"And thus," continued the ambassador, "thus are we, wretched slaves of a despotic master, and a capricious mistress, condemned either to find the little slipper and the large mouth, or never to re-visit the fertile plains of Denmark; Denmark, that beloved country, which gave us birth. Such are the curious commissions, which we are enjoined to execute; and you can easily conceive, that we have but too much reason in thinking, that we have bidden adieu for ever to our native land!"—

While making these reflections the tender hearted ambassador cried like an infant: those, which his narrative had suggested to me, were of a very different nature, and after meditating for some time upon the

conditions stipulated in the king of Denmark's edict, I asked, what would be the consequence of presenting Sapinella with a shoe too small.

—"For," said I, "though I suppose her in size to be no bigger than a doll, yet a slipper may be made so small, that even a doll cannot get her foot into it."—

Highly offended by this observation, the chief ambassador bestowed on me a look of most profound contempt.

—"Young man!" said he, "when you have seen a little more of the world, you will learn to treat a fair one with greater respect, whose fame can only be unknown to yourself and such as resemble you. Should chance ever lead you to the feet of our Princess, you will see what sort of feet they are, and be obliged to confess, that (Moussellina the Serious excepted,) she need yield to no one in point of figure. 'Tis not therefore so much the smallness of her foot (that being perfectly proportioned to her commanding height) which makes the fit-

ting her with shoes a matter of difficulty, as its shape, elegance, and form, no less singular than beautiful."—

—" But, my good lord ambassador," said I, " suppose the person, who produces a slipper perfectly adapted to the shape, elegance, and singular form of this beautiful foot, should by no means be inclined to marry your Infanta? What would be the consequence of his refusal?"—

—" Should any one be found," answered the Dane, " (but it appears to me impossible, that there should) so cold, so stupid, so weak in judgment, and so deficient in taste, as to renounce Sapinella of Jutland's lawful possession: she is then obliged by oath (her honour and all belonging to it being out of the question) to grant him whatever favour he may think proper to demand."—

My reasons for asking this question, I doubt not, valiant stranger, are already known to you: this answer determined my conduct, for till then my scruples had kept

me in suspense. Though the charming huntress still reigned in my bosom, not to fall in love with every woman, who came in my way, was to me utterly impossible; however the moment they were out of sight, I forgot all others, and only remembered the beautiful unknown. The Princess offered her hand to him who could accomplish a task, which she despaired of ever seeing performed; on the other hand certain death was his punishment, who failed in the attempt. I had long sought a foot worthy the most beautiful shoe in the world; Sapinella had long sought a shoe worthy the most beautiful foot in the universe, which (as she thought) belonged to her own person. If on the one hand, I feared, lest the sensibility of my heart should make me forget every thing but her beauty, while I gazed on a Princess, who had been painted to me in colours so fascinating; on the other, the aversion, with which I had always inspired the whole sex, seemed to promise me a safe-guard against my own

weakness. I had traversed two quarters of the world without finding a female, who would accept my heart; nor had I found any cocks except dunghill ones, who knew no more how to fly, than I did myself. I determined therefore to embark on board one of the ambassador's vessels, to try my slipper on the foot of the Danish Princess, and should I succeed in my attempt, then to lead her to the grotto in triumph, where dwelt the nymph with the steel-bow. The ambassadors, who really were mighty good sort of people, opposed this design with much earnestness. They represented to me all the difficulties of such an enterprize, and they assured me, that I should find it very inconvenient to be hung in the flower of my age, a fate which I could not escape, should I handle Sapinella's foot without success. I was obstinate; and as I had not divulged to him the mystery of the beautiful slipper, the chief ambassador, who was much addicted to blubbering, actually burst into tears, on seeing me ascend the vessel.

The wind was so favourable, that seven months after my embarkation, I reached the Scandinavian coast so favoured by nature. Having traversed those immense provinces, I at length arrived at the court of Fortimbrass with the wide mouth. Here it was, that I expected to meet with adventures much more worthy your attention, than those which you have just heard; judge then how great was my disappointment, when upon inquiring for the Princess, I was informed ....."

In this part of his history, the handsome stranger was interrupted by an unexpected flourish of cymbals, tymbals, fifes, trumpets, flageolets, bag-pipes, cow-horns, and drums, which suddenly resounded through the forest. We looked eagerly round us, and our eyes for some time rested in vain on the spot, whence the noise proceeded. The nearer that this singular concert approached, the more was our surprize augmented, as we still were unable to discover the cause. Suddenly my secretary and the

stranger's Squire, who had climbed two lofty trees, and who by this means enjoyed a more extensive look out, rejoined us in terror, and announced that a troop of Arabs, whom the hills had till then prevented us from descrying, was seen hastening towards us, no doubt intending to surround our little party. On receiving this intelligence we took our camels from our attendants, and having mounted them, advanced boldly towards the robbers, whom we could now perceive: but we soon discovered, that the new-comers were neither robbers, nor Arabs; and that as to surrounding us, nothing could be farther from their inclination. Still their appearance surprized us not a little. As far as our eyes could reach, we discovered an ever-lengthening chain of camels, horses, mules, and elephants, heavily laden with litters, palanquins, and baggage of every description. They were escorted by a numerous body of soldiers and slaves, all habited in chintz, the colours of which were so lively and bril-

liant, that the whole appeared to us a moving parterre, enamelled with the choicest flowers of spring and summer. We stopped to observe the progress of this singular convoy, in whose middle a palanquin, sparkling with gold, and adorned with designs of the most exquisite finish, failed not to attract the chief part of our observation.

This palanquin was shut up on all sides. Four slaves of gigantic stature bore it on their shoulders, while of four satraps on horse-back each supported an umbrella over it, to protect it from the heat of the sun. The satraps, the slaves, and the palanquin, were all covered with chintz; but that chintz was of so fine a texture, so admirably painted, and magnificently embroidered, that my secretary (than whom nobody understands these matters better) has frequently assured me since, that it could not be worth less, than two talents an ell. Round the palanquin the musicians were stationed, whose concert had been the original means of engaging our attention. Unluckily as

soon as they approached us, the concert began again, and we soon discovered, that in order to remain in its neighbourhood, it was absolutely necessary to be well used to it. This unexpected music made us start one and all; but it appeared so terrible to our camels, that after all the extravagant actions which sudden terror makes those animals perform, they fairly ran away with us. Every effort to hold them back only redoubled their impatience to be gone and the impetuosity with which they hurried us away. My secretary's beast and my own, who stuck close together, turning short round as if by agreement, dashed like mad things through the rear, which came loitering after the rest, and trampled upon all, who happened to be in their way. The general confusion, which this occasioned, and the cries of such as found themselves attacked in this *impromptu* manner, increased still more the fury of these infernal animals, who slackened not their speed, till they reached the banks of a large river. Here

for a moment they stopped to take breath; but the recollection of their fright soon returning, they plunged into the water, without giving us the least hint of their design. All that we could do in this moment of surprize, was to hold fast by the ears, and endeavour to reach the opposite bank of the river, which was both deep and rapid. We were now above fifteen stadii distant from the forest, where we had caused so much confusion. Gladly would I have returned thither, being equally anxious to know what was become of the handsome Facardin, and to hear the conclusion of his adventures. But my secretary representing to me the danger and difficulty of repassing the river, the near approach of night, and the fresh disturbance which our camels would occasion, should the same infernal clatter recommence on our arrival, I gave up the point, and suffered him to conduct me to a cottage, which we descried at some distance. I past the night in all the agonies of impatience: no sooner did the morning

dawn, than I again set forward, anxious to learn what could be meant by this triumphal procession, in which chintz furniture made so conspicuous a figure, and still more desirous of rejoining Facardin and his shoe, from whom I hoped to hear the catastrophe of his adventures. Unluckily a dreadful tempest which had not ceased during the night, swelling the mountain torrents, had caused such an overflow of the river, that it would have been useless to attempt to pass it or to wait till the waters should abate. The people with whom I lodged, assured me, that all the plains on that side would be inundated for at least a month: thus then was I separated from this amiable stranger, of whom I have never since been able to obtain a sight, in spite of my anxiety and efforts to rejoin him."—

Here Dinarzade heaved a deep sigh, as if just relieved from some great oppression.

—"A thousand thanks," she cried, raising her hands to heaven, "a thousand thanks to the satraps in chintz, the gilded

palanquin, the slaves who bore it, the umbrellas which shaded it, and above all to the flageolets, fifes, cymbals, and bag-pipes, which by frightening your camel, separated you from Facardin the Second! and oh! for ever blessed be the river, whose well-timed overflowing prevented you from falling in with him again! Had it not been for that fortunate accident, I doubt not, you would have wearied us as intolerably with the end of his adventures, as you have already done with the beginning. For Heaven's sake, my dear Prince, tell me at once, how many years it will take you to relate your history, and how many volumes may be made out of your secretary's journal; since though you have now trespassed upon our good Sultan's patience for a very considerable time, as you have employed it entirely in recounting the misfortunes of another person, while of your own I have not heard one syllable, I confess to you, that I begin to despair of ever hearing your history conclude."—

Luckily Schahriar (whose custom it was to have the soles of his feet tickled by his Great Chamberlain) had just then fallen into a gentle slumber, and therefore his sister-in-law's remarks for this time escaped him. Had it not been for this accident, there is reason to believe, that she would not have got off with a simple reprimand. Facardin indeed, who to give him his due was extremely good-humoured, hastened to prevent the Sultan's being aware of the interruption, and rescued Dinarzade from his displeasure by resuming his discourse.

—" As during the latter part of my narration," said he, " the attention of your most august and victorious Majesty seemed to be drawn off by some meditations no doubt of very serious, public, and political importance; in order to connect the broken threads of my story, I will just repeat the heads of what escaped you, while buried in your own profound reflections."—

—" Don't give yourself the trouble," answered the Sultan, " I have not lost a syl-

lable; and to convince you of it, I remember, that while I meditated on the means of preserving the tranquillity of my subjects, and the prosperity of my dominions, you recited, how the palanquins, elephants, chintz curtains, and umbrellas, took to their heels, and dashed into the sea, as soon as your Squires and their camels began to play upon their fifes and bag-pipes."—

—"Exactly so!" exclaimed Dinarzade; "the Prince of Trebizonde need only continue his history; and if ever your Majesty should take it into your head to repeat the whole in the style of the specimen, which we have just heard, I'll engage for its being the most curious narrative, that ever was related in mortal hearing!"—

—"Silence!" said the Sultan; "I wish to give all my attention to the Prince. Trebizonde, proceed."—

—"I was considerably vexed," continued Facardin, "at my abrupt separation from the handsome stranger, not only because I had already imbibed a sincere attachment to

him, but because I meant to have requested him to change his name; lest the exploits by which I intended to make mine illustrious, should be ascribed indiscriminately to one or other of the only two Facardins existing. However, but a short time elapsed, ere I discovered, that this precaution would have been of no avail.

Some persons have minds so inactive, as to pass whole hours without opening their lips, and this more particularly happens, when they are alone. For my part, never having been afflicted with that supineness of imagination, which leads people to meditate on the various objects which present themselves to travellers without discussing them by word of mouth, whenever I had nobody else to converse with, I held a conversation with myself. Sometimes I repeated a scene or two from some new play; sometimes I hummed a favourite air, and at other times I whistled it. In short, I made use of every source of amusement, which talents and an excellent education could sup-

ply, instead of wasting my time in building castles in the air, like the stupid dreamers, to whom I just now alluded. It is true! my secretary did not come under this description; but then he had another whim, which was not a jot more sensible or entertaining. Every twelve yards he halted, and drawing out a port-folio crammed full of his remarks, he busied himself with the utmost gravity in chalking down all the rivers, castles, wind-mills, mountains, and pigeon-houses, which he saw from the road. One day in particular he put me out of all patience.

—" I wonder, Jessamin," said I; " I wonder, that with such a long beard hanging down to your girdle, you are not ashamed of being so childish as to keep eternally scratching and scrawling, when you might employ yourself so much better in remaining near me, listening to my discourse, and replying to my questions. Pry'thee, put up that bundle of trash, and look in your list of perilous adventures, for that which happens to be nearest at hand; for in fact I

am heartily weary of wandering about, as I have done for these last three weeks, without knowing where I am, or whither going."—

As I said this, we approached a bridge, which he was just then in the very act of drawing; nor was it without infinite reluctance, that he consented to lay aside his employment. However, my orders being repeated, he prepared to obey me; when suddenly our camels began to whine, and snuff, seemed to be seized with some violent panic. A moment after we heard the tuning of instruments, and immediately about half a dozen persons appeared at the other end of the bridge. They were all drest in a sort of chintz uniform, and no sooner did they descry us, than they began to get their instruments in order and tune, by way of doing honour to our approach. Perceiving these musicians to be of the same kind with those, whom we had left in the forest, we begged leave by signs to decline the serenade, with which they were

preparing to compliment us. They easily discovered by the violent agitation of our camels, that we made this request on their account. Unluckily the distress of these beasts appeared to the musicians so entertaining, that as they staggered across the bridge (for they were completely drunk) they thought proper to heighten it by an additional symphony. No sooner were the first notes audible, than my secretary's camel, recollecting the means by which he had just escaped, dashed into the river without hesitation; and while in hopes of gaining the opposite bank his master held fast by the neck, the curious memoirs of our travels, which he had not had time to put up, floated down the stream to our great discomfiture. With respect to *my* camel, the principal musician had seized him by the bridle, and the others prevented him from rejoining his companion. When the poor beast found, that all avenues to escape were barred, he dropped upon his knees trembling like an aspin; he shut his eyes,

not being able to shut his ears, and sent forth such melancholy cries and groans, that I found it impossible to refrain from laughter; especially when I heard the other camel, affected by his friend's situation, answer her in the same pathetic strain from the opposite side of the river.

I sprang upon my feet; and the principal musician, who still held my camel's bridle, having persuaded his companions to withdraw (for he dreaded, lest they should occasion some new alarm), he conducted me across the bridge, frequently apologizing for the insolence of these drunkards. He informed me, that they belonged to a band, with the other members of which, he supposed, I had not come in contact; since to judge from my camel's turn of mind, he thought, that had he heard them, the animal must have died of the fright, they being very numerous, and being positively ordered to play on all their instruments, as soon as a stranger appeared in sight. He added, that he had staid behind in order to

collect these rascals together, who had separated themselves from the convoy, in order to drink at the different ale-houses on the road, and that he must hasten to rejoin the train of the Princess.

—" What Princess ?" said I.

—" Moussellina the Serious," answered my new acquaintance; " who is returning to her father's dominions in hopes of laughing."—

" Of laughing !" I exclaimed; " what can you mean ?"—

—" I mean," replied he, " that she has been travelling about for these three months for the sole purpose of laughing, and it is for the sole purpose of laughing, that she now returns to her native land. But what a simpleton am I," he continued, " to think it necessary to explain to you, what you must know so much better than myself."—

Thus saying, he hastened to rejoin his companions, as fast as he could lay legs to the ground. It was in vain that I called

after him, begging him to come back, and satisfy my curiosity: he turned not his head towards me, and nothing could persuade my secretary to let me mount my camel and follow him; for Jessamin protested, that he had rather die, than be again in the power of that unmerciful music. We hastened therefore to escape from it; he lamenting the loss of his journal, and I, that of an explanation respecting the Princess of Astracan. I might have passed the time till midnight, in these reflections, had I chosen it, for my secretary kept at a considerable distance behind, probably endeavouring to set down the heads of the adventures which had been contained in his journal: but the silence which his reverie compelled me to observe becoming intolerable, I stopped, and waited till he came up with me.

—"Jessamin," said I, as soon as he joined me, "look among your papers for the list of places, of which the enchantments and perils are likely to furnish me with some

employment; I wish, as I told you before, to go immediately to those, which are nearest at hand."—

—"Look for it yourself," answered he peevishly; "all my lists, journals, and papers of every description are following the course of the river, while I am following your Highness on this devil of a camel, who makes me every moment give myself up for lost; nay, he is even a great obstacle to my salvation, so often does he put me under the necessity of cursing both himself and our great Prophet for introducing him into the world. If you like it, my Lord, you are perfectly at liberty to follow these papers, which in fact are commentaries of our illustrious actions: for my own part, I am not quite so great a fool as to run the risque of drowning in the attempt to fish them up. But for Heaven's sake, where is the use of scampering after adventures in your present equipage? Is it not clear, that however great may be your courage, there needs but a fiddle to make you run

from one end of the world to the other? I would really advise you to restrain this violent thirst for glory which torments you, till you have a better chance of satisfying it. We are now within three days journey of the Persian gulph. In the city which is enriched by the commerce of that sea, you may find the most beautiful horses in the universe: there, if your Highness will take my advice, you will get rid of these unlucky camels, and mount yourself according to the established fashion of knights-errant, instead of trotting about the world like Armenian merchants, or pilgrims on their way to Mecca."—

I took his advice. On the third day after this passed, we discovered the banks of the Red Sea, having travelled without meeting with any fresh accident; that is to say, without falling in with any music by the way. The sun was just setting; and I beheld with infinite pleasure the variety of brilliant hues, with which its rays tinged the surface of these waters. I could have

sworn, that a purple carpet had been spread over them; for the colour of the sea, and that of the light in which it sparkled, were mingled together in a manner at once the most splendid and beautiful. My secretary, who now kept close to me, asked, whether I knew how these waters had obtained the appellation of the Red Sea: I answered, that I supposed, it had been given them on account of their colour.

—"Quite the contrary," said he; "they are no more red than you are; and since it will be an hour before we reach Florispahan, the capital of Arabia Petrœa, I may as well employ the time in explaining this matter."—

He had not time to begin his story, before something glittering which appeared on the water at a considerable distance, attracted my attention. The sun was already sunk beneath the waves, and his last beams illuminating this object, we imagined at first, that a golden hillock was floating towards us. As it approached, we could per-

ceive an infinity of streamers fluttering in the wind, and at length ascertained, that a bark was drawing near us, which was covered with gold from the extremity of the mast to the very surface of the ocean. It was conducted by two dwarfs extremely black, and extremely deformed. As soon as it touched the shore, there came out a kind of nymph, more ornamented than heaven, and more hideous than hell. While I busied myself in conjecturing, how it was possible to be at once so young and so ugly, she threw herself at my feet, and embraced my knees, before I could possibly prevent her.

—"Invincible knight!" said she, "follow me, and preserve the most precious life, that ever yet was given to a mortal! But first swear to me, that however dangerous may be the undertaking, that however disagreeable may be its conditions, you will not hesitate to attempt the deliverance of a beauty, more perfect than till now the universe could ever boast."—

Here as she began to weep, I raised her from the ground, anxious to spare myself the wry faces, which she then thought it proper to make: nay, I had already opened my mouth to give the oath required, when my secretary clapped his hand before it."—

—"Stay one moment, my Lord," said he; "before you engage yourself, let me ask this young lady a few questions." Then taking off his bonnet, and shaking his long beard, "Either my name is not Jessamin," he continued, "or you come from the Chrystal Island—am I right, sweetheart?"—

—"Hold your tongue, child," answered she; "my business is not with you, but with your master. Yes, amiable youth!" she added, "it is to you, that I am sent. The paragon of beauty has just entered the bath, and unless you are so condescending as to see her come out of it, never must she enter it again! In defiance therefore of your page Jessamin, swear to follow me! Swear to me this, and in return may the dew of morning cool your sweet slumbers;

may the zephyrs of evening breathe gently on your cheeks; and may the accents of your well-beloved be as favourable to your wishes, as the cock's crow is grateful to the ear of him, whose couch during the night sleep hath denied to visit!"—

These prayers were so extremely kind and acceptable, that I could not think of rejecting the nymph's request. I took the oath, which she tendered, and swore, that happen what might, I would not only see the lady, whom she mentioned, step out of the bath, but afterwards would do my utmost to effect her deliverance. My secretary no sooner heard me make this vow, than he judged it expedient to tear his hair, pluck out his beard by the roots, and utter groans and lamentations the most deplorable.

—"Unhappy Prince!" cried he; "what evil star conducted you hither to engage in an enterprize, whose event must either prove your ruin, or entail on you everlasting dishonour. None but a satyr, or the

offspring of some Spanish fly, would dare even to think of an adventure, which you have sworn to attempt, but which I will take my oath, you will never accomplish! However, I have still one means in my power to release you from the vow, which you have just made so rashly!"—

Thus saying, he drew his dagger, and rushed upon the ambassadress, no doubt intending to kill her. I had no difficulty in preventing this act of passion, or in finding words to express, how much I disapproved of this unmanly transport. However, so far was I from exciting his contrition, that seeing me on the point of embarking without him, (such was the law of this adventure,) and finding, that I positively forbade his accompanying me, he gave way to an impulse of passion not less violent than unavailing.

—"May the sea," he exclaimed, "swallow up the gilded bark, the furbellowed monkey who is just on the point of entering it, and the unfortunate Facardin, who is now preparing to follow her."—

On hearing my name, my conductress examined me with a look of surprize, and asked me, if in truth my name was Facardin.

—"Why should it not be so?" said I.

However not satisfied with this answer, she addressed herself to my secretary, who was still weeping by the water's edge.

—"Venerable Jessamin!" said she, "tell me the truth; is your master really called Facardin?"—

Hoping, that this would be of service to me, he called Heaven to witness, that such was my real name.

—"Then let me away without loss of time," said she, "since I possess the invincible Facardin; but if this stranger is really he, what is become of the other half of him?"—

Not understanding this question, I did not attempt to answer it. The gilded bark made its way with incredible swiftness, and soon losing sight of that shore, on which the inconsolable Jessamin was still venting

his lamentations, a quarter of an hour landed us upon another.

This was an immense rock, which rose in the midst of the sea. It appeared to be transparent, and as soon as we disembarked, I perceived, that it was entirely composed of chrystal. A female, more advanced in years, more splendid in dress, and more frightful in feature than my conductress, came in all haste to receive us.

—"Take courage!" cried the nymph of the bark, as soon as the new-comer was within hearing; "I bring what our charming mistress has sought for so long in vain. This is the great Facardin!!!"—

—"The great devil!" answered the other; "why, you must be mad, Harpiana, to mistake this shrimp for the invincible Facardin! But no matter. We shall soon see of what stuff this daring youth is composed; and as he seems likely to fail in the very preliminaries, we shall at least have the comfort of seeing him flayed, while they burn

the unfortunate Chrystallina! Has he taken the oath?"—

—"He has," answered the first scarecrow, "and so readily, that I am almost sorry for his fate."—

—"Disarm him then," rejoined the other, "while I announce his arrival to our charming Mistress."—

—"Softly," said I; "a moment's patience, if you please, Miss Monster; let me inform you, that if you pronounce the word, "disarm," a second time, I shall whip both your ugly heads from off your shoulders."—

Thus saying, I displayed my sword: they seemed not a little confounded at a proceeding so unexpected.

—"Conduct me," I continued, "immediately to this lady, whom I have sworn to protect, in order that without loss of time I may deliver her from a danger, which appears to be so pressing. Truly, it would be extremely well-timed to give away my

arms, when I come here for the sole purpose of fighting!"—

—"Flower of chivalry!" said she, who had come to receive us, "do as we request, since resistance will be vain. Give up your arms, and I swear to you by the prophet Ali, the original inventor of green turbans, that if you meet a single enemy with arms, yours shall be restored to you."—

I suffered myself to be prevailed upon; and retaining only my sword, which nothing could induce me to relinquish, I followed, wherever these damsels chose to lead me. In my way I observed a number of persons, the singularity of whose appearance surprized me not a little: they were men in female dresses, who being each provided with a spindle and distaff, were spinning with great application, as we past along. I inquired the meaning of this humiliating masquerade. I was answered, that I was unlucky in not being permitted to in-

crease their number; that all these persons had been adventurers like myself, who having taken the same oath, preferred passing their lives in this degrading situation to engaging in the enterprize at the risque of being flayed, if they failed to accomplish it; but that no choice was left for him who should present himself on the last day of the year (that space of time being allotted for the trial) except to attempt the deliverance of the lady, or be flayed without further delay.

—"May I ask," said I, "the nature of this perilous exploit?"—

—"Our lovely Mistress will inform you," answered one of my guides, "as soon as you are presented to her."—

It would have been difficult to walk, and indeed to keep one's feet on an island of chrystal, if the roads had not been strown with diamond dust. It was already night; nor should I have been able to distinguish the several objects which presented themselves, had not the rock been hollowed

out with much labour in various places, where orange-trees were introduced, from whose branches large chrystal chandeliers and a profusion of burning lamps depended; this made the whole island as bright, as if it had been day.

We were situated directly under the torrid zone, scarcely four degrees removed from the equinoctial line. The sun during the day had darted his rays full upon this immense mass of chrystal; the air was considerably heated, and not a breath of wind was stirring after twilight. Consequently, I was almost suffocated with heat by the time, that I reached the other end of the rock. On the brink of it I perceived a square pavillion, in which both my guides advised me to take some repose. I found there all sorts of refreshment, and hastened to enjoy that of bathing at the request of my attendants, who assisted me to undress, but who failed in persuading me to commit my sabre to their care, as I scrupled not to do, my garments. In vain did they exert

their lungs in assuring me, that nobody in this world ever bathed sword in hand. All their remonstrances proved fruitless; I not only entered the bath, but came out of it in this warlike posture. A magnificent night-gown was immediately thrown over my shoulders; and while I eat of what was set before me, and appeased my thirst with cool and delicious wines, my clothes were carried off by my conductresses.

The day broke. After demanding my clothes without success, I was desired to set forward, and also was entreated once more to lay aside my clumsy ill-looking scymitar, which would be totally useless in the business, for which I was preparing.

—"Pry'thee," said I, "talk no more about my scymitar. As it is, I want only a close cap, a distaff instead of a sword, and a jacket and petticoat, to be drest like those wretches, whom I saw in my way hither!"—

Finding me deaf to all entreaties respecting the sword, of which they were so anx-

ious to deprive me, they conducted me without more delay to a bridge, which connected the chrystal rock with the most delightful meadow, that I ever beheld. Here the two ladies left me. When I had crossed the bridge, two little negroes, even more deformed than those who had managed the bark, closed behind me a brazen barrier, and with a low bow demanded my sword. I answered that this request being particularly disagreeable to me, if they mentioned it again, I should be under the necessity of cleaving them from the head to the navel. This threat put them in such terror, that away they ran over the meadow like two black kids. I followed them without hurrying myself, till I came near a palace, which could not well avoid being transparent, for the walls were formed of the clearest and most beautiful plate glass, that the world ever produced. Near this palace was raised by means of golden pegs and cords of purple a magnificent pavillion. I have since heard,

that it belonged formerly to the unfortunate Darius, of whom I have the honour to be a lineal descendant.

In this tent, which was open in the front, I perceived a bed, if possible, more rich and elegant than that, which now contains the charms of the divine Scherazade. These objects would not have given the most distant idea of a perilous adventure, had they not been placed in a very disagreeable neighbourhood: for to the right of the transparent palace there was erected a pile of wood evidently intended to burn some criminal; and on the left I observed a kind of altar, the four corners of which were provided with iron rings for the purpose of fastening the victim, and with sacrificial knives for the purpose of cutting his throat. Though I never could even form an idea what it was to be afraid, I confess, a little kind of inquietude passed through my head like a vapour, when I remembered, what I had heard respecting the chrystal rock. However, no person being in the tent, though

the bed seemed prepared for somebody, I approached the little palace, and here the first light was thrown upon the singular adventure in which I was engaged. Chance had conducted me to the bathing room. To enter it would have been unnecessary, since I could distinguish perfectly well through the walls, what was passing within. Four negresses, more dingy, more flat-nosed, and less dressed, than any to be found in the heart of Guinea, surrounded a marble bason, in which according to all appearances their mistress was waiting for my arrival to begin the adventure. As soon as they perceived me, these ladies in waiting ranged themselves in a line; and immediately the admirable Chrystallina stepped out of the water with as few clothes on, as it was possible to have without being stark naked. She remained in the midst of these four ugly old toads a considerable time, before they could find any thing with which to cover her. This piece of art did not escape me; but though I conceived, that her complexion

must be seen to great advantage while contrasted with the horrible figures around her, I own, I was much struck with the dazzling whiteness of her skin; and I looked with contempt upon the perils of the enterprize while I reflected, that this uncommon beauty would certainly feel some gratitude for the service, which I hoped shortly to render her.

While such were my reflections, the lady and her attendants disappeared, I know not how. In a few moments after one of the negresses came to say, that her mistress, the heavenly Chrystallina, that divinity whom I had just been so fortunate as to see bathing, waited for me in her apartment, where she was just gone to bed, and hoped, that I would make haste to preserve her life by my politeness and generosity. Scarcely could I believe, that this message, at once so flattering and so free, was not sent for the purpose of making a jest of me.

—"The adventure may end as it pleases," said I to myself, "provided it begins, as

this obliging ambassadress gives me hopes that it will."—

I followed her with great eagerness, and on her part she lost no time. I guessed, that she was leading me to the tent of Darius, and no sooner had I entered, than it was surrounded by a troop of soldiers completely armed. The nymph Chrystallina desired me to sit down for a moment at her bed's head, and being obeyed, she next rang a golden bell. Immediately an old man appeared, whose beard was at least three feet longer than my secretary's: in his left hand he held a scythe, and in his right a small clock, having placed which on the other side of the bed, he retired. To him succeeded two figures still more extraordinary. The first was a sort of high-priest, respectable from his habit, but of an aspect the most ferocious: among his sacred ornaments was included a great butcher's knife, which was stuck in his girdle, and his beard was even longer than the one, which I had just seen. The other was a blacksmith, at

least so I supposed from his having a hammer, a file, and a bag of nails; besides this he held a brazen hoop, on which was strung a variety of rings of different sorts: this hoop he fastened to an iron staple, which was fastened to the floor by a broad plate of gold. The lady, from whom this mummery had drawn my attention, now desired me to make the first effort towards her deliverance by bringing her one of those rings: that done, the adventure would be accomplished, and I should remain sole master of her person and her treasures. These words made me examine her again; but she was now too close for me to be as much charmed with her, as I had been at first sight. In spite of the art which she had used to conceal her beauty's decay, she seemed to be much gone by. I suppose, she thought, that the suspicion of her being painted occasioned my surprize, for in order to shew me that she was not, she immediately took great pains to display her arms and bosom. This convinced me beyond a doubt, that

she was daubed from head to foot, and she now disgusted me as much, as she had enchanted me on her first appearance. However, as I had promised to undertake this adventure, and as all she wanted was one of these rings, I advanced towards the brazen hoop, on which they were strung.

— "Hold, my little friend," said the long-bearded archbishop, who now perceived, that I was armed; "Hold!" said he in Arabic; "who taught you to appear sword in hand in a lady's bed-chamber? Down on your knees, young man, and give me that useless weapon without delay."—

I cannot describe, magnanimous Emperor, the fury, which I felt at hearing this piece of insolence. However, I strove to repress it, lest I should betray myself into some impropriety.

— "Mr. Parson!" said I, "what you have just said, has been dinned into my ears by all the rabble of this place; and I now assure you, that if such another speech comes out of that bush, which covers your

face, I shall strike off your head, and convert it into a scrubbing-brush!"—

In finishing this compliment I made my sword whistle twice or thrice about his ears. I soon perceived, that as all these islanders made the same request, my answer produced the same effect upon every one of them; for after ducking several times under my sword, my friend the high-priest took to his heels, and the blacksmith did not stay long behind him.

No sooner were they departed, than I hastened to end the adventure by bringing a ring to the fairy Chrystallina, for I supposed, that I might have one for the trouble of taking. But though I possess more strength than the gods bestow upon many, it was in vain, that I exerted it, and tried each ring separately; not one could I move. Piqued at a resistance which I did not expect, I redoubled my efforts, but with no better success. At length recollecting Alexander's method of dividing the Gordian knot, I was going to procure one of the

blacksmith's files, when the nymph desired me to resume my place near her.

—" It is not on exertions of this nature," said she, when I had obeyed her, " that my safety, and also your own depend. It is evident, that as you now employ it, no strength can obtain for me one of these rings; however, there is a way of disengaging them with as much ease, as if the brazen hoop were open. Take breath, while I explain it to you, and in the meanwhile examine with attention the furniture of this tent."—

I threw my eyes round, and perceived besides the clock and the brazen hoop, a chrystal wardrobe, and two spinning-wheels. The lady perceiving, that I was ready to hear her, addressed me in the following manner:

History of CHRYSTALLINA.

NATURE bestowed on me those sentiments of prudence and virtue, which in others are merely the effects of education; but with them I also possessed a degree of curiosity, which I never could succeed in repressing. My mother, who wished to preserve me in all the purity of original innocence, suffered nothing male to approach our dwelling. In a short time my curiosity had no other object than the sight of a creature, of whom I only knew the name. In vain was that creature described to me as a horrible monster, who would devour me the moment that I met his eyes. My curiosity daily grew more urgent, and at twelve years old, it was so violent, that I resolved to run away, and see a man, cost what it might. Accordingly, one night when the family was buried in sleep, I dropped from my window into the garden, of which I

next scaled the wall. I jumped down on the other side at the risque of my life; and all this trouble did I take in hopes of finding an animal, whom I expected to devour me! I ran like a mad-thing across the plains, trembling lest I should be pursued and brought back; nor was it till my security was certain, that I sat down under a bush to rest myself, and wait for day.

Under this same bush, a young pilgrim, whom the night had surprized, had also taken shelter.

This I did not discover, till the dawn permitted me to distinguish the surrounding objects. He woke at the same time with me, and showed no less surprize, than I did on finding himself near me. In spite of my curiosity I was then so uninformed, that I took him for a girl of my own age, whom I conjectured to be a foreigner from the difference of her head-dress, and strange cut of her clothes: as to features, I thought (though I was quite as handsome then as I am now) that the stranger's face was

even handsomer than my own. For some time we examined each other in silence.

—"Amiable stranger!" said he at length, "if you understand my language, deign to inform me, where I can find a woman. My father, who inhabits a desert abounding with wild beasts, and who has bred me to the chace from my childhood, permits my engaging bears, wolves, tigers, and wild-boars; but he forbids my trying my strength against that most dangerous of animals, the woman, for he assures me, that nothing can defend me against the poison, which it carries about it. I begged him to tell me how this creature is made, in order that I may avoid it, but he would not oblige me: I then requested, that I might have a young one brought up tame in the house, but this also was denied me. At length his repeated refusals augmenting my inclination to see one of these dragons, about a month ago I escaped from my father, and have ever since been wandering through the most gloomy woods and frightful deserts in hopes

of finding this animal. My search has as yet been fruitless: but as your dress declares you to be a foreigner, should there be any women in your country, be so good as to tell me, how I may get a sight of one."—

—"And are not you one yourself?" said I, much surprized.—

—"No truly!" answered he; "so you need not be afraid of me; and even should one happen to pass this way, my bow and arrows will be sufficient to protect us."—

—"But if you are not a woman," said I, "what are you?"—

—"A man like yourself," answered he.—

In short, Sir Knight, after much surprize and many questions on both sides, our alarm was dissipated; we found what we had been seeking, and without my being devoured, or his being poisoned, our curiosity was satisfied.

This discovery pleased us so much, and we thought the deceit of our parents such an affront to our understandings, that we

resolved to return to them no more. We concealed ourselves for some time in the very depth of the forest, persuaded, that a strict inquiry would be made after us. We knew no other fear than that of being separated; and I submitted without difficulty during the two or three first days to subsist on the produce of my companion's chace, and to have no other retreat for the night, than a tree or a cavern.

But my curiosity was not extinguished; it revived in my solitude, and I grew tired of my situation. I fancied, that my new acquaintance was not the only man in the world; that though he was more beautiful than the day, the world might possibly furnish somebody even more to my taste; and this idea having once got into my head, I took care to ease my heart of it. Accordingly I proposed to my companion, that we should leave the wood, and see a little what was going on elsewhere. He desired no better, and we proceeded together, till we arrived at the sea-shore. Neither of us had

ever seen that immense element. You must certainly know, that it is a very striking object when beheld for the first time, and we were both of us occupied in admiring it, when suddenly its surface was disturbed by a swell, which seemed to extend itself further than our eyes could reach. At length a dark vapour ascended; which at first raising itself in the air, grew thicker as it fell again, and forming a cloud was driven by a strong gust of wind to the place, where we were standing. It wrapped itself round me like a cloak, and then hurried me away with it in spite of my lover's cries, whom I was compelled to leave behind. I perceived, that I was borne along with great rapidity, but this gave me not the least uneasiness. I am naturally courageous, and was only angry with the fog, which, I doubted not, prevented me from seeing many things worthy my curiosity. Suddenly it dispersed; the sea opened, and I was swallowed up without suffering the least inconvenience. I now found myself in a spacious grotto, or-

namented with that infinite variety of shells which the sea produces, and enriched with enormous pearls, as well as every sort of coral which it conceals within its bosom. Before I could look about me, and recover from my surprize, I saw the faithful Harpiana near me, the same person who brought you in the gilded bark from the shores of Florispahan to the chrystal island.

She was dressed much after the fashion of the attendants of Thetis; that is to say, she was hardly drest at all. This by no means set her off to advantage, for at that time she was if possible uglier, than she is now. She informed me with a low courtesy, that I was welcome to an empire, whose sovereign had commissioned her to show me its wonders, and afterwards to conduct me where my arrival was anxiously expected. Having said this, she led me to a long gallery of chrystal, whose roof was supported by two rows of columns covered with coral-branches and mother-of-pearl. When we had traversed it, my conductress

inquired, whether before I ascended, I chose to see the gallery of shipwrecks. Perceiving that I did not understand her, she informed me, that we were then standing under the Red Sea; and that this sea being the channel, through which by continual navigation the treasures of India were conveyed to the other parts of the globe, it frequently happened, that such as had enriched themselves by long labours, carried the fruit of them to the bottom of the sea, where the different presents made by tempests to the most greedy of elements, were carefully collected, and arranged with order in a particular apartment.

I, who never could deny any thing to my curiosity, eagerly accepted this proposal. We now entered a room, where heaps of gold, silver, and precious stones met my eyes on all sides: this saloon was so large, that I could not conceive, how the whole earth had contrived to furnish the immense wealth, which filled it. Having admired this magazine for some time, I was conducted

into another still more gratifying to my curiosity. This was a chamber less wide but much longer than the first. On one side were statues of gold, silver, bronze, and marble, with furniture of all kinds, and arms of every fashion, either valuable for their quality, or exquisite workmanship. On the other side of this saloon stood a row of wardrobes, over each of which were the portraits of a man and a woman, with an inscription underneath. The dresses and ornaments of these portraits were all of different countries. I bestowed so much time upon the first, that the nymph Harpiana informed me, that her master's impatience to see me elsewhere, would not admit of my making so long a stay, as would be necessary for my examining the rest. She added, that in each wardrobe were the garments of those, whose portraits were on the outside; that they were all illustrious persons of both sexes, who had perished by shipwreck; and that likenesses had been taken of the most distinguished, some hav-

ing been restored to life, and others painted after their death.

—" For example," said she, " two and twenty years have passed, since I was drowned in company with the Sultana Fatima, the Grand Signor's favourite, who was carrying presents to Mecca. What followed ? She was reanimated on account of her uncommon beauty, and I had the same good luck, in order that I might wait upon her. The Lord of this island loved her passionately, but all his power and skill could not long preserve her from the grasp of death ; at the end of six months she was carried off by the small-pox, the only malady, over which my master has no power. That is her portrait," added she, " and her clothes are in the same wardrobe."—

She opened it, and showed them to me ; nothing could be more splendid and elegant. While I examined them, she considered me with no less attention.

— " It is the very thing !" said she ; " your dress is unworthy of your person,

and the Sultana's will be much more suitable. One would think, they were made for you; I have already measured you with my eye, and on these points I never am mistaken."—

The proposal was accepted. No sooner was I dressed, than my lady in waiting thought me so lovely, that she pressed me to hasten to take command of the empire, of which I was soon to be mistress, and with which I could not fail to be enchanted.

—" You will there see the genius of Genii," continued she, " and will see him at your feet."—

—" Shan't I see a man too?" interrupted I.—

This question surprised her a little; but before she could reply, my demand was answered by the appearance of the personage whom she had mentioned, this genius of Genii himself in his own person. Impatient to examine his new acquisition, he had transported himself (though how I know not) to the place where we were, instead of

waiting for us above, as his dignity required. His looks surprized without alarming me; though his make was very different from the pilgrim's, whom I had found under the bush, I had not the least doubt of his being a man. It is true, the other was much handsomer, but then the other was not half so large. Reflecting therefore in my own mind, that man of whom I had heard such terrible things, was an animal in his kind so excellent, I concluded, that the more there was of him, the better he must be: this idea induced me, the first compliments being over, to accept the offers of the Genius, so ignorant was I at that time, that it was necessary to preserve appearances.

This ceremony, the only one used in our marriage, being over, he gave me his hand (or rather his paw, for it was covered with long hair to the very tip of his fingers), and aided me in ascending a magnificent staircase. We stopt not, till we found ourselves on the same chrystal rock, which you tra-

versed in your way hither. Thence I was conducted to this island, and our marriage was celebrated in this pavillion. I was soon disgusted with my new bargain, for the Genii are in general a very whimsical, cruel, ill-made sort of people, and above all are abominably addicted to witchcraft. Though my spouse was naturally fickle, to me he was so eternally faithful and so insupportably fond, that I was ready to die of vexation. To this constancy he united an extravagant degree of jealousy, though of a kind quite peculiar to himself: he wished every body to admire me; but it made him violently angry, if he suspected me of inspiring any more tender sentiments than admiration. He looked on me as a treasure, of which he was resolved to be the sole possessor; but he by no means chose to be the only person, who could estimate that treasure's real value.

I passed my time very disagreeably with this wretch, whose caprices constrained and whose fondness disgusted me. Harpiana

was my only consolation. She warned me to conceal an aversion, which her master and mine (dull as he was) might at length discover; and she advised me by redoubled complaisance to persuade him, that I was distractedly in love with him, both on account of his personal and mental accomplishments; by which means I should find it an easy task to dupe him, whenever I found a proper opportunity.

I took her advice; and I soon established myself so perfectly in the confidence of the Genius my spouse, that by degrees I became the mistress of his dearest secrets. Among other things, he informed me, that there were only three enchanters in the whole universe, whose power was equal to his own; that all three were his inveterate enemies; that each of them possessed a magic spinning-wheel, which in order to render them his slaves, it was necessary to put into the hands of the three most beautiful princesses in the world; and that as soon as these beauties should have spun long enough

to make a cord able to reach from the top of the loftiest mountain to the surface of the sea, he should attain the utmost summit of his wishes. But till this desirable event could be accomplished, he was in danger of losing the talisman, in which consisted the whole power of his enchantments. However, he added, this talisman was a mystery so well concealed, that there did not exist a human being, who had the most distant suspicion of its nature.

He had no sooner said this, than I was dying to know, in what this talisman consisted; and I flattered him so adroitly, and timed my caresses so well, that at length I became possessed of a secret, which till then he had concealed with the greatest caution from every one.

From the little toe of one of his feet he suddenly displayed a monstrous and terrific *nail*, or rather claw, which he had the power of hiding at will, after the manner of lions. He then informed me, that so long as this nail remained attached to his person, so long

was he invincible; and that even in case of its being separated, it would be easy for him to rejoin it, and thus preserve his power undiminished, unless before he could produce it, some one should swallow the whole separated limb down to the nail in question. He told me besides, (for he was disposed to tell me every thing, so perfectly was he fascinated by my caresses,) that he had contrived to insinuate himself so artfully into the society of the possessors of these important spinning-wheels, that two of them were already the reward of his exertions; but that these were of little use, unless he could gain possession of the third, which of all the three was the point most difficult to compass.

Upon receiving this mark of confidence I displayed such unbounded gratitude, that my husband knew not by what means to express to me his delight and satisfaction sufficiently.—Perceiving that the sky was overcast, and that the winds were beginning to whistle, he transported me to the summit of the chrystal-rock, in order that I

might enjoy the entertainment of some shipwreck or other, which (he doubted not) would be the fruits of the approaching storm. He told me, that it was from the top of this rock, that he discovered me for the first time, and caused his spirits to carry me off from the shores of the ocean. He then put into my hand a telescope, not so long as my finger, and yet so miraculously powerful that I could make out the most diminutive objects as distinctly, as if they had been close to my feet.

I had no sooner placed the instrument to my eye, than I beheld a vessel in the open sea, the whole crew of which seemed to be already in extreme terror at the storm which threatened them, a single knight excepted. The face of this stranger was to the full as beautiful as that of my little pilgrim, and his size was almost as advantageous as that of my great booby, the Genius. Suddenly, the storm became so violent that the vessel was swallowed up by the waves, whose fury conspired with the raging of the

winds. Not a man of the whole crew escaped, except that stranger, who had already fixed my observation, and who still disputed his life against the assaults of the hostile billows with efforts almost incredible.

The degree of interest and compassion, with which this sight inspired me, was such, that I was almost out of my senses. The Genius thought that my transports were occasioned by the excessive delight, which I received from this species of entertainment, and was the better pleased with me. He told me, that what I had seen was nothing, and that he would furnish me with a much superior kind of amusement: with this assurance, he placed me in a small car upon wheels, taking his seat beside me. It was not without experiencing some uneasy sensations, that I felt this machine put itself in motion, and precipitate us from a place, which I fancied to be the loftiest upon earth, into an abyss whose depth I trembled to measure. However, I had not time for

many reflections: In an instant I found myself in the chrystal-gallery; we had entered it at the same place, by which I penetrated into it on my first arrival. From this gallery we could see distinctly every thing which passed, as far as the surface of the sea; that is, when the sea is calm, for at that time it was too much agitated to permit my distinguishing any thing.

Some time after, we were informed, that the tempest had produced nothing but a small bark, ten or twelve mariners, some naval stores, and a horse of value. The Genius my spouse having cast his eyes on these poor wretches, gave it as his opinion, that such sorry knaves were not worth the trouble of re-animating; he then begged my pardon for having given me an amusement so little worthy my attention; and to recompense me for my trouble in coming so far for it, he suffered me to examine that magazine at leisure, on which at my first visit I had only been allowed time to cast a passing glance.—This was an employment

exactly suited to my natural curiosity; and after examining the portraits and various habits of those, whose spoils were deposited in the chrystal wardrobes, I found infinite entertainment in perusing the histories of their owners. Charmed with the attention with which I examined these different reliques, the Genius would gladly have multiplied his treasures and his curiosities, solely for the purpose of furnishing me with amusement: for to say the truth, though he was immoderately jealous, he was by no means disobliging. On the contrary, you could not have found a Genius in the whole world more easy to live with, except when the tender passion was concerned.

He left me in the magazine, the faithful Harpiana being commissioned to explain to me such points, as would otherwise have been unintelligible. I was gratified by this permission to prolong my examination of the wardrobes and their contents, for it was seldom, that he would trust me out of his sight;

and when he *did* leave me for a few minutes to myself, it was only for the purpose of preparing for me some entertainment or other, which sometimes astonished, but never was able to please me.

I cannot tell you, how ardently I wished, that the sea would bring to us dead or alive that unfortunate stranger, who alone had survived for a few minutes the shipwreck, in which his companions had perished. I had the greatest desire to take a nearer view of a man, who even at such a distance had appeared so charming; for I have already told you, to what an excess I am governed by curiosity! However, it was in vain, that I raised my eyes every moment to the surface of the waters. The calm, which now smoothed them, still offered nothing interesting to my sight; and my husband's messengers, who examined every part of the surrounding abysses, returned without discovering more, than the miserable remains of the shipwrecked vessel.

The entertainment, prepared for me by the Genius, detained us in the chrystal gallery the whole of that night. The next day, we amused ourselves with fishing for dolphins on the coast of the chrystal-island. Nothing can be more diverting than this mode of fishing.

A band of excellent musicians, (perhaps the best to be found in the universe, as well in point of voice as instruments) was on board the vessel, by which you, Sir Knight, were conveyed hither. As soon as it reached the open sea, the music struck up in perfect harmony. The dolphins, who of the whole fishy tribe have the most curiosity, came flocking from all quarters round the glittering bark, in order that they might have a nearer view of it; and as they have a still more decided taste for music than even for shows, they followed the concert, in profound silence, without perceiving (so attentive were they to the sweet sounds) that the bark insensibly conducted them into a

long chain of nets, which lined the whole extent of the shore.

However, this adventure did not produce any very bad consequences to them: it only cost a few of the most beautiful their liberty. The Genius ordered them to be deposited in some superb reservoirs, where he amused himself with superintending the education of these illustrious fish.

When the bark returned for the third time with its capture, one of the fishermen came to inform us, that in this last hawl he really believed, that they had caught the king of the dolphins; so heavy were their nets, and so brilliant were the variegated scales, which they saw sparkling through the water.—But what was my surprise, when instead of this magnificent fish which we expected, I saw enveloped in the nets the very same stranger, whose composure during the tempest, and whose courageous exertions afterwards, I had witnessed with such admiration: the armour, in which he was arrayed, was enamelled with gold and azure, and

ornamented with an infinite number of precious stones of all kinds and colours.

The Genius my husband, who knew nothing about generosity, immediately ordered the fishermen to despoil him of his brilliant arms, and then cast him back again into the sea.—I looked round for my faithful Harpiana to implore her by looks, that she would find some means of evading the execution of this command; but she was not to be seen, and I was on the point of interfering myself, when we were informed, that the stranger still possessed some remains of life. Upon this, the Genius, who wished to learn his history, in order that it might be engraved upon the wardrobe in which his spoils were to be deposited, ordered his attendants to assist in recovering him.—To rescue his life was to preserve mine, so warmly did compassion interest me in his behalf. The succour, which was given him, proved so efficacious, that he soon opened his eyes, recovered his spirits, and was upon his legs in less than an hour.

The sight of the Genius appeared to surprize, but not to alarm him. He easily comprehended, that every thing, which he saw in these enchanted regions, belonged to this extraordinary figure. He cast his eyes upon me, but instantly turned them away again, aware, that both of us were in the power of one, who was near enough to observe all his actions: what effect this single look produced upon the stranger, I cannot pretend to say; but as to myself, it did my business effectually! He now returned my husband thanks for the assistance, which he had just received, in a manner, which without having any thing degrading or servile, was full of gratitude and insinuation. It quite softened the Genius. For my part, this compliment appeared to me so ingenious, that I almost fainted away through admiration.

The stranger now proceeded (without giving us time to question him) to inform us, that his desire to atchieve so famous an undertaking, had induced him to embark

at the port of Florispahan, for the purpose of visiting the Court of Moussellina the Serious; less indeed from any inclination excited by her reputed beauty, than on account of the glory to be acquired in an adventure so perilous: that on the fourth day of his voyage a dreadful tempest had destroyed his vessel and all his attendants, without his being able to comprehend by what means he had been brought near enough to these hospitable shores, to receive assistance; and finally, that he should feel but little regret at having been shipwrecked, since this trifling accident had been the means of his reaching the dominions of the most magnificent and best-made sovereign in the universe, if it were not that he saw a woman in his company, of all creatures upon earth the one, for which he had the greatest antipathy.

This speech, aided by the stranger's agreeable manners, could not fail to be well received by my Genius, for the brute was no less greedy of flattery, than subject to

jealousy; and from that moment he took such delight in the stranger's conversation, that he could not exist without him. On the other hand, the stranger affected to shun me on all occasions; nay, when the Genius (who seldom quitted me) desired him to join our party, he always turned his back towards me, and during the whole time that he remained with us, never addressed to me a single syllable of his conversation. This behaviour made me quite desperate; for the more that such marked unpoliteness proved that he detested me, the more desirous was I of pleasing him. The Genius was ready to die with laughing, when he saw the constraint, which his guest seemed to suffer in my presence. He sometimes rated him severely for his aversion to a sex, which makes the whole happiness of mankind, and repeated, till he was hoarse, the assurance, that if the knight would but once look me full in the face, he was persuaded, that his aversion would be overcome.

The very idea was sufficient to make the

stranger run away from the place where I was, as if something most horrible had been proposed to him. At last, so much importunity was used with him, that he consented to look at me once, on condition, that he should never be asked a second time. Nor did I neglect to make a great many objections; as well to mark to the stranger, how much his conduct had displeased me, as to impose upon my husband by the appearance of extreme delicacy: so that the Genius was obliged to hold my head forcibly between both his hands, to prevent my avoiding the glances of his favourite. Oh! if I *had* avoided them, how much I should have lost! While my jolter-head of a Genius laboured with both his body and soul to give his friend a fair look at his wife's charms, the eyes of the charming stranger were doing their duty: they assured me, that he was dying for love of me, and that all these marks of antipathy were assumed. This first scene over, its inventor exultingly enquir-

ed, what effect the sight of me had produced upon his guest?

—"An effect so disagreeable," answered he, "that if it were to happen frequently, I should utterly lose my senses! I even doubt, whether in the violence of my delirium, the goddess, your wife, would herself be secure against my transports!"—

I thought I understood the meaning of these threats, and from that moment I felt the greatest inclination to see myself the object of one of these frantic fits; and all this through pure curiosity!

The Genius, however, was exceedingly surprised to find, that the sensibility of the stranger's heart, instead of yielding on this trial, had only been converted into frenzy. He told him, that he was resolved to carry the point; that he would prove to him, that a woman like me was not a person to be despised; and that since the charm of my face had failed to produce the expected effect, those of my whole person, from head to foot, must be called in to their assistance.

Was it possible, Sir Knight, for a jealous husband to carry his extravagance further? Our charming guest appeared to change colour at this declaration, and requested permission to depart that instant, since he preferred leaving the island, rather than consent to give proofs of his complaisance so extremely disagreeable. The better to deceive him, the stupid Genius gave him a promise, that in future he should be let alone, and that no further mention should be made of me and my charms, since he was so horror-struck at a proposal, which he would not have made to any other man in the universe.—But all these assurances (as I said before) were only made for the purpose of deceiving his friend the more artfully; and this was the plan, which he adopted.

He caused a cabinet of chrystal to be made, exactly similar to that which you see yonder. He placed it in the magazine of shipwrecks among the others, after covering it with a curtain of green taffety embroidered

with gold. This done, he disclosed his plan to me, which was to shut me up stark naked in the cabinet; but for fear of accidents he took care, that no one but himself should be able to let me out. I was ready to die with desire to communicate this fine project to the stranger; but I never could contrive it, so eternally was I teased by the presence of my everlasting Genius. But as the stranger had more wit and penetration than all the strangers in the world put together, I have no doubt, but he guessed something of this premeditated surprise, and you will soon see the consequences.

Every thing being prepared for this new scene, the Genius, in order to bring it about the more naturally, thought proper to ask his illustrious guest, whether according to the usage of other knight errants, he had not provided himself with armour previous to his setting out on his expedition. The other replied, that he well remembered being completely accoutred on the day of

his shipwreck; but he was ignorant what had since become of his arms, his sword only excepted, which those, who found him, had kindly left in his possession.

—"Well then!" said the Genius; "to-morrow I will show you the only place in the island, which you have not yet seen since your arrival here. Perhaps, this place may afford you some news of your armour: at any rate, you will see something or other well deserving your attention. I will leave you alone there, lest my presence should oblige you to hurry over the examination of many rarities, which ought to be revised at leisure; and I would lay a wager that you never saw any thing more curious, than what is contained in the glass cases, which you will find ornamented with portraits, and inscribed with the names of those whom they represent."—

—"And I would lay a wager," replied the stranger, "that there is not among all those names a name half so curious as my own."—

—" And pray then," " enquired the Genius, " what makes this name of yours so curious ?"—

—" Its novelty," he answered; " I am called Facardin, and I do not believe, there is another person of that name to be found in the universe."—

—" Oh! as to that, I am quite of your opinion," said the Genius; " but my good friend Facardin (since Facardin, *is* your name,) in every other respect, I am sure, that you will be quite of mine."—

The next day, my jealous spouse locked me up with his own hands in the chrystal cabinet. I was in the state which I before mnetioned; and the Genius failed not to expatiate upon the astonishment, which the sight of me would give the stranger, and the amusement which I should receive in witnessing his consternation. I was quite in despair to find, that the cabinet was transparent to no purpose, since there was no possibility of unlocking it, either from within, or from without. The curtain was drawn

before it; and now the Genius without loss of time conducted his guest into the apartment, where I was inclosed, and according to his promise immediately left him to himself.

In spite of my vexation at finding myself shut up without any means of escaping, my heart palpitated with impatience, principally from reflecting, that while occupied in examining the other glass-cases, the handsome Facardin might pass mine over, or might not think of drawing away the curtain, by which I was concealed. But my uneasiness was soon removed: he came directly towards it; and without losing the time which my brute expected him to bestow upon the survey of the rest, he drew away the curtain, and appeared so much charmed with the manner in which I was presented before him, that after a few unavailing efforts to free me in a more peaceable manner, in two blows of his sword he broke my fragile prison into a thousand pieces.

As he did not intend to render me this

service without reward, and as my heart was filled with a decent sense of gratitude, his curiosity confined itself to those wonders, whose knowledge had been forced upon him with so much perseverance; mine too was so perfectly satisfied, that I thought, the whole merit of all the pilgrims and all the Geniuses under the sun, must certainly be contained in the only Facardin, whom the universe could produce. We soon arranged the characters, which it was necessary for us to play, in order to account for the demolition of the cabinet, and we settled our proceedings for the future: though this last precaution was quite useless, as you will soon see.

The charming stranger now took his brilliant arms from the place, in which I told him, that they had been deposited: arrayed in them, he seemed to be the God Mars, who, quitting the Queen of Beauty, carried away with him all the loveliness of her son. I already mentioned, that he was almost as tall as the Genius; but this towering stature was by no means a disadvantage, when ac-

companied by such admirable proportion of limbs. He now left the saloon of shipwrecks, his sword in his hand. The Genius was extremely surprized at seeing him in complete armour; but he was much more so, when after complaining bitterly of the trick which had been played him, he proceeded to tell him, that as soon as he had removed the green curtain, and seen behind it the statue of a woman without cloathes, he was so much shocked, that in the first movements of his indignation he broke the niche in pieces, and was afraid, that he had done the statue some injury by a heavy blow, which he had given it with his sword.

Nothing more was necessary to frighten my amorous Genius almost out of his senses, and without replying he ran to my assistance. When he arrived, he found me extended upon the floor, and apparently in a swoon. However, on seeing that I had not received any wound, his fears were tranquillized; and as soon as I did him the favour of coming to myself, he laughed ready to split his

sides at the recital, which I gave of the stranger's fury, and of the terrible fright into which his brutal behaviour had thrown me. However, he was by no means pleased, that his guest had not given himself sufficient time to examine the whole catalogue of my perfections, before he broke the chrystal cabinet; for my husband's ruling absurdity was an anxiety to make the whole world know the value of a treasure, of which he was himself the sole possessor. I could read in his countenance the determination to bring us together again by some new stratagem: but fortune ordered things differently. From that day, the charming Facardin was not to be found, either on the island which we inhabited, nor on the chrystal rock, though during a whole month both were searched for him with the greatest diligence.

The vexation, which his loss occasioned me, was so violent that I was scarcely to be known for the same person. The merit of him, whose absence I regretted, was of

itself sufficient to produce this effect upon me; still I fancy, that curiosity had a still greater influence; and I strove in vain to console myself for having lost the opportunity of ascertaining, whether this stranger would have been as agreeable in a second interview, as I had found him in a first. As the complaisance of my Genius was quite inexhaustible, the ennui, to which he saw me a prey, afflicted him extremely. He took it into his head, that change of air would be good for me, and that in order to amuse me and restore me to my former state of health, nothing would conduce so much as travelling. I was delighted with the plan; but I was not equally well pleased with the precautions, which accompanied its execution. He caused a chrystal cabinet to be made similar to that, in which I had already been inclosed; it is the same, which you see yonder. He shut me up (but for this time with my cloaths on), took me upon his shoulders, and commenced his travels by traversing the bottom of the ocean. Oc-

casionally we landed to repose ourselves, and take refreshments in the most delightful spots, which the shores afforded. On these occasions he never failed to let me out of my glass-case, and resting his head upon my lap, he generally sank into such profound sleep, that I had the greatest difficulty to rouze him, when it was time to recommence our journey.

I had flattered myself at setting out, that during my travels fortune might enable me to gain some intelligence of the excellent Facardin; but on this head I obtained no kind of satisfaction: and as I was out of all patience at being of no other use in the world, than to serve this brute of a Genius for a bolster, I called to my succour that curiosity, with which Nature has so plentifully endowed me. It suggested to me the doubt, "whether I could possibly contrive to deceive a jealous husband, who always carried me upon his back well packed up when he was awake, and who when he was sleeping, always slept upon my lap?" I answered

my curiosity, "that I would immediately satisfy it, whether the thing was practicable, or not." With this view I tried, whether I could manage to draw my knees from under his ugly head. Finding that I effected this without the least difficulty, and that I could go whither I pleased, for whole hours together without his ever stirring from the place where I had left him, I seized the very first opportunity of trying, whether I could not carry the remainder of my project into effect. I succeeded; and this appeared to me so amusing, as well from the singularity of the thing as for the gratification of my vengeance, that my curiosity (which was always fertile in novel ideas) persuaded me to persevere in these innocent trials of my skill in artifice, till I arrived at the hundredth infidelity. I guest, that I should find infinite entertainment in the different excuses and cowardly terrors of those, whom the presence of the Genius, would of course inspire with extreme alarm. I always carried with me yonder hoop, which you see loaded

with rings; they belonged to the persons, who assisted me in tricking the vigilance of the Genius, and of whom there was not one, who was not heartily terrified. But above all, the two last were the most cowardly chicken-hearted knaves, that I ever met with in the course of my existence.

—" Trebizonde, my good friend," cried the Sultan, interrupting him, " what was that you said last ?"—

" Mighty Lord," replied the Prince, " I said, that the virtuous Chrystallina informed me, that, having carried her adventure as far as the ninty-eighth, she received the two last rings, which completed the hundred, from two poor cowardly devils, who almost expired through fright."—

—" She lied !" said the Sultan ; " but go on with your history : we will discuss that point another time."—

In obedience to his Sovereign's commands the Prince of Trebizonde proceeded to state, that the Nymph of the Rock continued her narrative as follows :

—" The hoop being now furnished with the complete number of rings, which I had resolved to accumulate, I grew weary of playing tricks to an animal so jealous and so stupid, and I determined to find some new entertainment for my curiosity. But Fortune, who had favoured me so long, turned her back upon me, when I was least prepared.

We had returned home four months and a few minutes; and I was not sorry to find myself in a prison less narrow than that, in which I was confined during my travels. The rock of chrystal, the pavillion in which we are at present, and the palace of shipwrecks, were all places whose variety presented me at every turn with the most unusual charms: but above all the rest, the saloon which contained the chrystal cabinets, was the most agreeable to me, on account of its recalling the recollection of the admirable Facardin. One day I had shut myself up in it with Harpiana, in order that we might talk of that regretted hero without inter-

ruption. Harpiana had never seen him; but being entirely in my interests, she was extremely anxious to obtain a sight of him, charmed with the wonders which I related, both respecting his person, and the very genteel manner, in which he conducted himself towards me.

We were quite at a loss, how to obtain any intelligence of him: for though she had an infinity of sense, and my curiosity furnished me with a thousand expedients, still we never could effect our purpose, surrounded as we were on all sides by the ocean.

—"If we had but a sword," said she, "I would go in pursuit of him myself."—

—"And why is a sword so necessary?" I inquired.

—"Because," replied Harpiana, "the golden bark is the only vessel to be found here; and this always remains motionless, except when the Genius himself touches it with his wand, or when any person enters it, sword in hand. Now as we have neither the one nor the other,

it is useless for us to think about the golden bark."—

I know not, what I intended to do with the rings, of which I had made such a fine collection: but it happened, that I always carried them about me, without ever thinking of examining them. One day, I took it into my head to satisfy this unlucky curiosity, and while I was thus employed, the Genius surprized me.

I was extremely confused. My embarrassment appeared suspicious to my husband. He was astonished at the number of the rings, and asked me, how I came by them. As I observed the strange and sudden alteration of his countenance, I was thoroughly aware, that this question was dictated by the true spirit of jealousy; and as there is no animal in the whole world so ugly and so terrible, as a jealous husband who asks questions, I threw myself at his feet without delay, and requested his forgiveness of a crime, which I had *not* committed; in order to conceal

from him the fault, of which I was really guilty. Accordingly, I confest, that I had stolen them from the cabinets, in which the spoils of persons shipwrecked were deposited.

This confession augmented his suspicions; for he had himself laid all those rings aside in another place, and he was certain, that there were not above fifteen of them or twenty at most; while on the hoop which he had taken away from me, the number amounted to a full hundred. He examined them one after another, without finding what he was in search of. However, I was so frightened after the detection of my first lie, that I scarcely knew what I said afterwards; and he at length guest so dexterously all the circumstances of my transgressions, that he pronounced my sentence upon the spot. He condemned me to be burnt alive at the end of a year, unless in the course of it I could find some adventurer, who would remove from the brazen hoop in a single night all the rings, which I

had acquired during the whole of my travels. No human effort could get them off except one after another; and it was only in the same manner by which they were obtained, that they could be made to move from the places, in which before the trial was made, the Genius took care to fasten them.

Such was the monster's decree! His servants were charged to see it executed. He disappeared himself, being engaged by some undertaking, whose nature I have forgotten. Ever since, I have sought for a person, who by rendering me so slight a service, would save my life; but all those, whom the golden bark has conducted hither, have basely refused to try the adventure. I always hoped, that among those whose succours Harpiana implored without intermission, she might at length meet with the invincible Facardin. He, I am persuaded, would accomplish this adventure; but in vain have I flattered myself with these fond hopes; Fortune refuses him to my prayers,

and hitherto has only conducted to this pavillion the miserable wretches, who preferred the occupation and dress, in which you saw them, for the remainder of their effeminate existence, rather than even hear of the enterprize in question, after they had seen me come out of the bath. Doubtless, you are already informed of the other conditions, and of every thing which relates to them. Time presses; you are informed of the whole affair; it is now only necessary to know your determination, in order that the clock may be set: for twelve hours only are allowed you to finish the adventure. Yet surely to judge by your appearance, to so valiant a Knight twelve hours will be more than sufficient, and I shall eternally confess myself indebted to you for my life."—

Such was the narrative of the modest Chrystallina; such was the proposal, with which she finished it, and my answer was word for word, as follows:—

—"Fair lady, I promise to do all in my

power to deliver, or at least to assist you. My object is to fight your enemies, not to make love to yourself. Without vanity, I may say, that I should find it as easy to finish this adventure in another way, as by the force of arms: but as glory invites me to employ my sabre, and as your beauty, all wonderful as it is, does not tempt me to display my prowess in any other manner, I shall immediately cut myself a passage through your butcher, your clock-maker, your blacksmith, your female Moors, your convenient Harpiana, her hideous companions, and the whole mob of your spinning ragga-muffins. Now then, make up your mind, whether you will accompany me, or not. If you chuse to share my fortunes, I will save you from the perils, with which you are menaced, at the hazard of my life. On the other hand, if you prefer remaining here, in order that you may betray me, I give you my word of honour, that in case of my being attacked, the first head which I cut off, shall come from your shoulders."—

The lady between the sheets seemed almost frightened out of her senses at this threat. She sprang out of bed, embraced my knees, and assured me, that she desired nothing better, than to follow me through the world. However, she implored me to listen to her advice, which would facilitate my enterprize. She then returned to her bed, and told me, that she was going to ring the bell at three different times: that at the first tingle, the person, whose business it was to set the clock, would not fail to make his appearance, in order to perform his office; that at the second, the locksmith would arrive to see how many rings were already taken off from the brazen hoop; and that at the third, the sacrificer with the long-beard would come running to release me, in case I had accomplished the adventure, or (supposing me to be found unable to complete it) to deliver me over to his servants, till he had leisure to flay me himself: that these three personages were the most distinguished, the most cruel, and the

most dangerous of all those, whom the Genius her husband had left to guard her and execute his orders; and that having enticed them into the pavillion one after another in the manner which she had just explained, I should be able to do with them whatever might seem to me the best to be done.—

—"But still," continued she, "though you are sufficiently convinced, that violent means cannot enable you to open the enchanted hoop, you may have some doubts, whether gentle methods would or would not be more effectual. Therefore, if you like it, you may satisfy your curiosity in this respect, before you have recourse to the other extremity."—

—"My curiosity?" said I; "Ring, ring, my Lady Chrystallina; my disposition is not quite so curious as yours."—

—"I never heard a better thing in my life!" cried the Sultan; "that is exactly what I should have said myself in your situation; for the more that women are curious, the more it behoves us Men to show, that we

are exempt from such a weakness!—But pray, go on; your narrative is so entertaining, that I could pass all my life in listening to you. Well then! you were standing by the bed-side of the nymph of Chrystal, in your night-gown and slippers, and with your sword in your hand, when you told her to ring the bell: you see, that I forget nothing; now let us hear, what happened afterwards."—

—"Being accoutred," resumed the Prince of Trebizonde, "exactly as your most sagacious Highness has just described, I placed myself near the door of the pavillion; but I chose such a position, that the gentlemen, whom we expected, could not possibly see me, till they should have passed the threshold. The curious fair-one now tingled her bell; the clock-maker did not fail to make his appearance, and I did not fail to chop his head off. I served the locksmith in the same manner; and I signified to the nymph by signs, that she should now summon the grand-sacrificer. In reply she raised her

right hand, and talking with her fingers, she explained to me—" that the two officers, whose business I had just done for them, were appointed to enter the pavillion much about the same time to execute their several functions ; that is, the one to set the clock, and the other to count the rings, as they came off the enchanted hoop. They had also the privilege of remaining in the pavillion during the whole adventure; but she gave me to understand, that it would be ridiculous to ring the bell a third time so soon, since the sacrificer could not possibly believe, that the enterprize was already accomplished, and still less that if the attempt was abandoned in despair, that he should be summoned, before there was any necessity. She therefore represented to me, " that it would be most prudent to wait three or four hours, which would allow us sufficient time to make an opening in the back part of the pavillion, through which we might escape during the obscurity of the night with less difficulty, than by the door which was al-

ways surrounded by a multitude of guards in complete armour." Having given this advice, she let fall the hand, with which she had been discoursing.

As my right-hand was employed in holding my sabre, I was obliged to make my answer with the left; but indeed I can talk as easily with the one as with the other. I replied, "that Facardin of Trebizonde was not used to make his escape, by breaking out of a back-door, through fear of danger; that I would have nothing to do with her aforesaid opening; and that if she did not immediately ring the bell for her Jack-ketch of a Pontiff, I was determined to set out in search of him; and send him to join his two scurvy companions."

I no sooner ceased to speak; (that is to say, to move my fingers,) than hers resumed the conversation—She said, that if such was my determination, she at least conjured me to take one of the spinning-wheels in my left-hand by way of a buckler; for that the satellites of the Genius (who would infallibly

oppose my passage) bore such profound veneration to these machines, that they would sacrifice their lives rather than run the risque of breaking, what they knew to be so precious to their necromantic Master.—This piece of advice was not so disagreeable to me, as her former counsels. Accordingly I laid hold of the spinning-wheel, which was nearest; and the virtuous Chrystallina, jumping out of bed and seizing the other, implored me to set forward without waiting for the enemy's arrival; since by this means we should stand the better chance of taking them by surprize, and when they were least prepared for an attempt so desperate.

I did not contradict her. We quitted the pavillion of Darius: and the astonishment of the guards, who surrounded it, was so great, that I cut down five or six, before they had time to recollect themselves. The rest betook themselves to flight, howling most horribly, and I pursued them with rather too much ardour; for the grand sacrificer (whom I happened to have left be-

hind, while I went forward to look for him) quitted the altar which he had prepared for me, and came running after me with a dozen of his attendants, each provided with a great chain for the purpose of binding me neck and heels. Chrystallina warned me of my danger by a loud exclamation, which made me turn round. No one dared to approach her, because she took care to cover herself with the awful spinning-wheel; and besides this protection, she spun with all her might and main, when she found her danger become very urgent. This was an action, which the boldest of our enemies dared not behold without prostrating themselves upon the earth; and during one of these humiliations, I took an opportunity of slicing off the head of the confounded high-priest, without respect for the length of his beard, or the sanctity of his office.

This once accomplished, what followed was rather a rout, than a combat. I killed as many, as I could reach, without trifling

away my time in making prisoners; and having traversed the chrystal-rock without meeting with the slightest obstacle, I assisted the wife of the Genius to enter the golden bark. I followed her into it; and no sooner was I on board, than the vessel sailed away as if it had been mad, without asking us whither we chose to be carried. I must not conceal from your Highness, that my joy at having accomplished this adventure was so great, that till we were out at sea, I did not recollect my armour. It appeared to me quite disgraceful to leave it behind me by so precipitate a retreat. And being unwilling, that the Genius on his return should convert my arms into a trophy of my flight, I endeavoured to steer the vessel back to the place, which we had just quitted. But the bark paid no attention to me, and in spite of all my exertions we soon reached a landing-place, where we found an abundance of good company, as you will see in the progress of my narration.

I told you, that I was extremely vexed at not having been able to regain the chrystal rock, in order that I might have rescued my armour: but my distress was very different, when I perceived, that the bark sailed straight towards a shore, which was covered with a multitude of people, some on horseback, some on foot, but most of them superbly armed and accoutred. I could also distinguish in the distance a number of tents and pavillions, raised in the middle of an extensive plain, and surrounded with lofty trees, whose boughs formed over them a shade, cool, thick, and delicious.

These Knights, as well as the populace, astonished at the sight of us, were all assembled on the margin of the sea, and employed in contemplating us with their telescopes, while they exprest increasing astonishment, in proportion as we drew nearer to the shore. I was so completely out of humour at finding myself obliged to disembark in the middle of this assembly (my companion a lady in her shift, myself with a drawn sword

and in my night-gown and slippers, and our whole freight consisting in a couple of spinning-wheels), that I was tempted to throw myself into the sea, rather than land in a situation so ridiculous.

To land at last, however, there was no avoiding. So great was my confusion, that I was really to be pitied. I hung down my head; I dared not lift my eyes from the ground, and I knew not, where to conceal myself: but the lady was not in the least put out of countenance. She no sooner landed, than she began to put her spinning-wheel in motion; and though this action did not inspire such extreme respect, as was the case in the Chrystal Island, nevertheless those, who had witnessed our disembarkation, did not fail to assemble round her.

I expected, that our reception would have been accompanied by loud bursts of laughter and a thousand jests and sarcasms: but finding myself mistaken, I took courage, and on raising my eyes, I was surprized to see, that all the men of distinction were accoutred in

a mode to the full as ridiculous and extraordinary as myself, though in different manners.

Three of those, whom I had seen on horseback, now alighted, and advanced to receive us. The sight of two of them first drew a cry of astonishment from Chrystallina, and then threw her into such fits of laughter, that she almost burst her sides: I could not resist following her example. The Knight, who first addrest me, told me with great politeness, that I did nothing to any purpose, unless I fell to spinning with my own hands. This person was the tallest and best made man, that I ever beheld. On his head he wore a fish-kettle instead of a helmet, and by way of a sword a huge spit was dangling at his left side: but the rest of his dress was brilliant with azure, gold, and gems of incalculable value. His strange dress, and the gravity, with which he delivered his remonstrances, would have forced a smile from a criminal upon the rack.

— "I need not ask," he continued,

" whence you now come: the golden bark, the Princess who accompanies you, and your sword still crimsoned with the blood of a terrible adversary, sufficiently assure me, that both in war and love you are one of the most valiant combatants in the universe, and I congratulate you on your success. But your present adventure, it is not enough to be a hero; you must also be a buffoon. To be able to make blood flow, is a great point; but it is a much greater, to be able to make faces! Let me therefore advise you to take the wheel from the hands of your companion, and favour us with a specimen of your spinning."—

I was in doubt how to take this sarcastic counsel; when my companion (as he called her) came running towards him with open arms.

— " Ah!" she exclaimed, " my ever-adored Facardin! Does then fortune at length relent, and restore you to the unabated impatience of my first curiosity?"—

—" Chrystallina the Curious," replied he,

repulsing her caresses; "different objects suit different seasons: at present your affairs are not the point in question. What climate throughout the world is ignorant of the conditions of a charm, which this renowned warrior has broken, and what curiosity would not now at length be satisfied?"—

The kind-hearted Chrystallina seemed to be somewhat mortified by this reception. However, she was not cast down. On the contrary, with equal rapture she ran to embrace the second Knight, though with no better success. He did not even honour her with a look, but repulsing her even more harshly than the other, he turned round and addrest himself to me. He was more lovely than day, and his dress was as follows.

His brows were encircled with a leather band in the shape of a diadem, from which rose an innumerable quantity of streaming feathers. He wore a cuirass of polished steel, and round his waist was fastened a

leather apron tolerably dirty. In one hand he held an awl, in the other a cobler's last, and at the end of a rope all daubed with pitch hung a shoeing horn. Just as he opened his lips to address me, the third approached to make his bow. I easily understood, that Chrystallina had no knowledge of this last Knight, for her curiosity furnished her with nothing to say to him: still his dress and appearance would have excited the curiosity of any other person.

His stature was by no means lofty, not to say that it was extremely low. He wore a casque which imitated to perfection the head of a cock, the comb forming the crest. On each arm was a kind of buckler covered with feathers, and when these two bucklers met upon his back, you would have sworn, that they were the wings of a cock. His cuirass, also covered with similar plumes, represented the bird's stomach: a thick tuft of long feathers bending backwards, seemed to rise from his chine; each leg was armed with a gilt spur, fastened just above his

ancle; and in order that nothing might be wanting to the resemblance which he wished to produce, he clapped his wing-looking bucklers three times, and imitated the crow of a cock so perfectly, that any hen in the universe would have been completely taken in.

As I could not imagine the meaning of all this, I stopped the questions, which they were going to ask, by entreating them to tell me, in what part of the world we were; why so many persons thought proper to wear such different disguises; and what whim had induced these three in particular to assume their several characters.

—"It is not very probable," answered the tall Facardin, "that you should be really ignorant in this respect, since to judge by your own dress, the same design must certainly have conducted you hither. Still as we are the last arrived except yourself, it is our duty to inquire, whether you are willing to engage in this adventure, supposing

that you either are or are not ignorant of its nature. If you consent, you shall be admitted into our company; otherwise, you shall be furnished with every thing necessary to enable your prosecuting your journey elsewhere."—

I replied, that I desired no better, than to signalize myself in any adventure whatever; and I gave them my promise to make one among them.

—"In that case," said the Knight, who was decorated with the shoeing horn, "it belongs to me, as being the last comer, to receive you, conduct you, and instruct you, as to what is going on in this quarter. I shall begin by making known to you the first of those adventures, which guided myself hither; but with your permission I will defer my narrative, till you shall have rested and refreshed yourself a little in one of the pavillions, which you may perceive beneath yonder trees. Few people are ignorant of the enchantment of the Chrystal Rock: you have finished the adventure of

the brazen hoop, by delivering the gentlewoman who stands near you. Come then, and refresh yourself after your fatigues; and while the lady spins beside you, I will tell her an anecdote or two respecting the Genius her husband, which will astonish her not a little."—

Having made this compliment, the three Knights called for their horses, and ordered one magnificently caparisoned to be brought for me: the cock was on horseback the first; and as soon as he was mounted, he began to clap his wings, and to crow with all his might and main. When I saw such a figure on horseback, I thought, that I should have expired with laughing: for his steed, frightened out of his wits by these unexpected proceedings, kicked, and jumped, and frisked, and made such a clattering, that the nymph Chrystallina (who, according to the custom of the place, had been placed on a pillion behind me) laughed herself into so violent a fit of the vapours,

that we had the greatest difficulty in bringing her to herself.

—"Fair Lady," said the cock, as soon as she was recovered, "I am extremely flattered by your approbation: but still when we come to the point, I am terribly afraid of failing. As for you, valiant stranger," he continued, addressing himself to me, "I would advise you as a friend to take the wheel from this lady, and spin away as usual."—

—"As usual?" I exclaimed; "may I be called a traitor and a scoundrel, if ever I spun a thread in the whole course of my life!"—

—"Nay, it does not signify!" replied he, who was to be my master of the ceremonies, and who wore the leather apron; "only it is as well to practice beforehand."—

This said, he gave orders, that the rest of my equipage should be brought after me (meaning the other spinning-wheel), and that the golden bark should be conducted to the

mouth of the river, on whose banks the pavillions were pitched.

As soon as we were in motion, the strangers and myself began to examine each other again from head to foot. I had already opened my mouth to inquire, why they chose to wear their masquerade dresses so long after the carnival, but the Knight of the Awl guest what I was going to ask.

—"I perceive," said he, "that you are come hither from no premeditated design, though in this extraordinary apparel. That is not the case with us: and since you appear to feel such astonishment at the sight of our arms and dresses, you probably are ignorant of the nature of the adventure, which you have just engaged yourself to attempt. I will therefore instruct you in every particular, and lay before you all the dangers which it presents, and the recompense which it promises.

History of MOUSSELLINA THE SERIOUS, Princess of Astracan.

THE King of Astracan (it was thus, that the Knight of the Awl commenced his narrative), one of the most powerful sovereigns of Asia, not only on account of his extensive dominions and the gold and silver mines contained in them, but of the valuable chintz manufactures which have rendered his name celebrated throughout the universe; the King of Astracan, I say, in spite of all his splendor and prosperity, still considered himself the most unfortunate of mankind, for he had no children, to whom he might bequeath his sceptre. The Queen, his wife, was young, handsome, and well made; indeed, her whole appearance was so promising, and her flow of health so uninterrupted, that you would have taken

your oath, that the King's affliction was occasioned by no fault of hers. Accordingly, he never exprest the least displeasure against her personally on this account; and as he loved her passionately, he was not even offended at her laughing all day long at his extreme impatience, and the infinite pains which he took to procure a successor. So many vows were made and so many sacrifices were offered, to obtain a blessing thus ardently desired, that the Priests were perfectly worn out with fatigue: and as the King believed the whole fault in this business to be his own, there was no end to his baths, and his medicines, and his drinking mineral waters; for in short he fairly went through all the ceremonies, which are prescribed to women in order to produce fertility. At all this the Queen laughed ready to kill herself, as well as at the vows, the offerings, and the sacrifices, which were lavished with so little effect: yet no one took it amiss, that she should be the only person, who appeared to be amused by what was considered by the

nation as a public calamity. The people knew well, that the poor Princess did not act thus singularly out of ill-nature, and that her only defect was that of being the most incessant giggler of the present age: every thing made her laugh, and nothing entertained her. The King, her husband, had been engaged in several wars with the neighbouring Sovereigns on this very account: for whenever they sent to announce some melancholy event (as for example, the death of an only son) she answered the Ambassadors with their long black trains by such bursts of laughter, that they immediately left the hall of audience in high displeasure, and sent off dispatches to their master, filled with indignant complaints at the gross violation, which the respect due to Representatives of Sovereign Majesty had experienced in their persons.

This malady of the Queen's daily strengthening and advancing towards perfection, by the advice of his council the King re-

solved, that she should make a pilgrimage to the famous Oracle of the Cock, and that she should only be accompanied by a small number of attendants, as is usual on these occasions. The temple of this Oracle is at the gates of Fourchimena, capital of the kingdom of Bactria. She arrived there without accident, concealing her name and rank, in order to avoid the ceremony and expence of a public reception.

The King, who had followed her incognito, thought fit to explain the object of his voyage to the Priestess of the temple himself: and while he was earnestly consulting the holy Matron respecting his wife's embarrassment, her Majesty was ready to split her sides with laughing. The Priestess was extremely scandalised at this indecorous behaviour; however, after a few skips in the air, and some frightful contortions, she delivered the following oracle as inspired by the sacred Cock, her master.

"That, which is wished by the *He*-Pilgrim,
Shall happen ere long to the *She*-Pilgrim!
And both shall laugh,
When the cow has a calf:
But the season, which suits the best with laughing,
He, who makes the infant laugh,
Shall laugh the loudest laugh by half in!"——

The beginning of this answer was sufficiently explicit; but the second part was rather embarrassing, and afforded the spectators ample room for exercising their powers of argument and conjecture. The event, however, proved, that the Oracle was as good as its word, and indeed better; for at the end of nine months the Queen produced a son and daughter, of which it was difficult to decide which was the most beautiful; though it was certain, that they were both more beautiful, than any child ever was at its first appearance in the world. Unfortunately, the birth of their children cost the poor Queen her life, for in the very act of being brought to bed she died of laughter.

Nothing could have consoled the King for her loss, except the children whom she left behind her, and the pleasure which he found in being able to sit quietly in his palace, without being stunned every moment by immoderate bursts of laughter. But he was not long permitted to enjoy such a happy state of tranquillity. At the end of six months the chamber, which contained his dearest treasures, was discovered in the night to be on fire. On the first alarm he hastened to the place; but though every one followed his example, and though numbers threw themselves into the flames in hopes of saving the children, the conflagration was so rapid and so dreadful, that it was only possible to rescue the little girl. The greatest part of the officers of the royal household, who remained in the midst of the fire and smoke till the very last moment, returned at length half roasted, but without being able to save the unfortunate Prince.

This calamity threw the whole kingdom

into the deepest affliction. As to the King, he absolutely refused to admit of any comfort; but Time, who is the universal consoler, insensibly deminished the father's grief, while he gradually increased the daughter's beauty. She was the living image of her mother, except that she was taller, better proportioned, had a fairer skin, a finer complexion, and eyes more brilliant a thousand times. In short if we are to credit those who have seen her, she is at this moment a thousand times more beautiful, than all the other Princesses in the world put together; but alas!" he continued, heaving a profound sigh, "it is evident, that they, who speak thus rapturously of Moussellina, cannot have seen all the Princesses in the world!"—

After making this reflexion, the Knight of the Awl remained for some moments absorbed in a deep reverie; from whence he no sooner recovered, than he resumed his discourse in the following manner.

—"The King, more dazzled with her charms than even his court and his whole

people, was never weary of admiring himself in his performance; and believing her to merit all the crowns in the universe, he was determined not to deprive her of his own by contracting a second marriage. But as it was his fate never to enjoy perfect happiness in his family-affairs, this admirable Princess, whose every glance showered darts of flame arround her, and whose whole person and slightest movement displayed graces the most lively and animated, had never yet been known to open her mouth either for the purposes of laughter or conversation; and it was only when she yawned (which she was much in the habit of doing) that she exhibited gums of a brighter vermillion and teeth of a purer ivory, than ever were till then beheld by the eyes of mortals. The good King, (who while his daughter was a child, was continually thanking his stars that she was free from her mother's defect,) as soon as she was grown up, would have given half his kingdom to have seen her laugh through the whole four

and twenty hours; so heartily was he wearied of a gravity, which appeared to him even mose insupportable than her mother's incessant laughter.

No means were left untried, which might possibly induce her to break this silence which distrest every body, and to overcome her solemnity, with which she was out of all patience herself: for it was quite evident from her manners, that every thing entertained her, though nothing could make her laugh: but all means were tried in vain. Philosophers, chymists, masters of languages, and instructors of parroquets, all exerted their talents to make her speak, and all threw away their time; nor was her gravity less obstinate than her silence. In vain did they collect together all the buffoons and jesters of the kingdom, good, bad, and indifferent: the King even sent for the best company of comedians to be found in all China, where farces are acted in greater perfection than in any other country of the universe; but they might as well have remained at home.

They were not able to twist the Princess's mouth into so much as a single smile.

As it often happens, that misfortunes which appear to be past remedy, are frequently followed by others still more difficult to support, so it proved in the present instance: an event at length occurred, which made the King, the court, and indeed the whole kingdom look as grave, as herself. She was fond of all kinds of amusement, but particularly of the chace: a magnificent castle, embosomed in a wide and agreeable forest, and situated at scarcely a day's journey from the metropolis, was the abode, which she had selected for the purpose of enjoying this exercise in perfection. She managed her horse like an Amazon; and in her hunting equipage not only looked as lovely as Diana herself, but was without comparison more dexterous and active.

One day, when the ardour of sport had carried her further than was her usual custom, and when the exertion of killing and pursuing the forest's inhabitants had nearly

exhausted her strength, she found herself on the banks of the river, which traverses the forest: it is the same, by which your bark is to rejoin us at the shore, whither we are now proceeding. The waters of this river are full as clear, as those in which Alexander the Great was so near losing his life, but are by no means reckoned so dangerous. As their qualities were well known, no objection was made to the wish, which the Princess made to refresh herself by bathing. Accordingly she hastened into the water, all covered with dust and perspiration, without giving her attendants time to raise the magnificent pavillion of chintz embroidered with gold and silver, which was usually erected on these occasions.

Her male attendants of course withdrew to a considerable distance, before the Princess began to undress. There only remained with her two of her principal ladies and four maids of honour, who by the King's order never left her, because they were the greatest talkers to be found in all Astracan. They

followed their mistress into the river, and having placed themselves near her, the neighbouring woods and rocks soon rung with such a clack, as never was heard before, nor will be again. For my own part I am persuaded, that instead of being induced to talk by listening to these damsels (which was her father's design in placing them about her person), the poor Princess, over-powered by their flux of words, had made a vow never to open her lips from the fear of resembling them.

Whether this was the case, or not, it is certain, that the King was soon under the necessity of forming a new household for his daughter: for while she was refreshing the loveliest limbs in the universe in the most transparent and delicious of all possible rivers, these chattering women began to praise her beauty, all at the same time. One exclaimed, that the god of the stream must needs be the foolishest fish that ever swam, to see so perfect a beauty in his bed without giving any sign of his being in existence. Another

declared, " that poor Jupiter must certainly be grown lamentably old, since he did not think it worth his while to metamorphose himself for the sake of a mortal more charming than all the goddesses put together; he who had formerly transformed himself into bulls and swans in honour of creatures, who would have looked like so many scullions by the side of a beauty, who discovered through the thin gauze (which formed her only covering) ten thousand charms of the most dazzling lustre!"—

It is still a question in dispute, whether the god of the river was out of patience at their chattering, or the Deities of Olympus were offended at their impertinence; but whichever was the case, it so happened, that all on a sudden the waters raised themselves to an astonishing height. Terrified at the prospect of being drowned, the females hastened to regain the bank; when they beheld close behind them a monster, whose enormous bulk occupied the whole space between the opposite shores. In vain

did they endeavour to climb the nearest bank, though the waters nearly placed them upon a level with the land: they were carried away by the impetuosity of the current, and soon swallowed up like so many frogs by the immense throat of the crocodile, who followed close behind them.

The Princess, who had seen but too distinctly the tragical adventure of her ladies and her maids of honour, had now less inclination to laugh than ever; especially, as the monster, as soon as he had got his teeth picked by a particular fish, who follows him every where for that express purpose, made towards her at full speed. Her first intention was to gain the nearest bank by favour of the waves, which had already made their way over it; this point once carried, she might easily seize her bow and arrows, which lay at no great distance, and defend herself against the crocodile's attacks. Unluckily, all her male attendants, who upon her preparing to bathe had withdrawn out of respect, were now assembled on the banks

of the river, whither the cries of the unfortunate maids of honour had attracted them; and the Princess's modesty made her judge, that it would be by no means becoming to expose herself to their view, covered with nothing more than a few yards of wet muslin. In this extremity, she could think of nothing better, than to endeavour to escape from the crocodile by swimming, and accordingly she lost no time in throwing off her shift, which would have embarrassed her actions. She now exerted herself to the utmost; but as the monster was but a few yards distant from her, her hopes of escaping were very faint, when her shift floating upon the water attracted his attention. Instantly he seized it; and as if he had been perfectly satisfied with this precious spoil, he ceased to pursue the fair Princess, and sank under the waters as expeditiously, as he had made his appearance.

The river, which had overflowed the banks, while he occupied the bed of it, immediately reverted to its place; this made

the spectators conclude, that the monster would not return, or at least not till another time: the Princess, who was now stark naked, suffered nothing more than her head to be seen above the water; for in consequence of what had just happened, her whole suite consisted entirely of men, whom the cries of the poor ladies on being swallowed up by the crocodile had drawn thither. She made signs to them, that they must prepare one of her magnificent tents at some little distance from the river; and her orders being obeyed, she again made signs, that they should withdraw, and leave her at liberty to quit the bath. She soon reached the pavillion; and having drest herself (though without a shift), she took her bow and arrows, rejoined her attendants, and mounting her horse, repaired to the magnificent palace, which she had quitted that morning. In the mean while couriers were dispatched to the court, who informed her father of this melancholy adventure.

The king hastened to rejoin her without

losing a moment; he was followed by the whole court; and by day-break the next morning he found himself in the presence of a daughter, whom he loved as dearly as his own existence; and for whom the danger, from which she had just escaped, seemed to have redoubled his affection. He wept through joy while clasping her to his bosom; then he fainted away through terror, on hearing the description of the crocodile. That very day he insisted upon the Princess's accompanying him to the capital, lest the monster should take it into his head to pay them a second visit, and do as much damage on land, as he had already done in the water. The rejoicings, which took place in honour of the Princess's escape, were not universal. Those persons, who were connected either by the bonds of relationship or affection with the beauties, whom the monster had swallowed, were perfectly inconsolable for their loss: the lovers in particular besieged the king with requests, that they might be permitted to examine the bor-

ders and environs of the river, even to its very source, in hopes that an opportunity might be found of avenging the death of their divinities by that of the accursed crocodile. At length he gave his consent, having first resolved to send a body of his best engineers to close up the mouth of the river and prevent by strong embankments the monster's approaches; at the same time he commanded them to leave the access to the sea open, lest instead of driving him out of his dominions he should enclose the crocodile within them.

The adventurous lovers, who formed an escort for the engineers, marched in two bodies on the opposite sides of the river, and cursed their stars at having already proceeded above half-way without finding any vestiges of that, of which they were in search. At length those who patroled along the right bank, arrived at a morass, which obliged them to go considerably out of the direct line of march. At the very moment when they were preparing to change their

direction, they saw their companions on the opposite shore precipitate themselves into the river. Casting their eyes on the waters, they plainly discovered a piece of muslin floating there; not doubting that this was the Princess's shift, and that in consequence their allies had discovered the monster's retreat, without loss of time they followed their example: when the perfidious crocodile, who lay concealed among the reeds, with which the marsh was bordered, rushed upon them, and treated every one of them, as he had already treated their relations and their mistresses.

The engineers and their workmen, whose business was not distinguishing themselves by actions of valour or temerity, returned home just as they came: if it had not been for them, no one would ever have known the fate of these unfortunate adventurers.

While the public was employed in lamenting their loss, as they had already lamented that of their deceased mistresses, intelligence arrived, that this confounded

crocodile no longer kept any bounds in the mischief, which he committed: he had already laid waste both sides of the river, swallowing up without mercy the cattle and their herdsmen, who (not having yet heard of this strange incident) continued to water their flocks and herds there as usual. In a short time after, it was perceived, that there was an alarming diminution in the city of all kinds of provisions, as well as of all those articles which are necessary to maintain the luxury and magnificence of a metropolis, and which were usually brought thither by the river from all parts of the globe. On inquiry, it appeared, that the monster, lurking (as I said before) among the reeds and rushes, with a single spring from the marsh into the river, sent all the vessels full of merchandize to the bottom, where the poor wretches on board of them immediately became his prey. It is not ascertained, whether he had been told, that women are naturally more tender than men; but it is cer-

tain, that he had quite another kind of greediness for the fair sex than for ours.

The King of Astracan was so completely overcome by such a rapid succession of misfortunes, that he scarcely knew where to turn himself: however, he did not as yet know the whole extent of his ill-luck.

The lovely Princess, when she quitted the capital, had no less than three hundred and seventy four dozen of shifts under the care of her deceased first lady of the wardrobe. At her return, not one of them was to be found, nor could she by any possible pains ever get any more made to suit her. After ransacking all the shops both in town and country, and trying every kind of muslin, cloth and linen, she was at length obliged to make up her mind to wearing no shift at all, though nothing in the world appeared to her more uncomfortable: however, there was no resource, for all the new shifts which she tried on, seemed to be bewitched: those, which she wore during the day, took away her appetite, and those, which she

wore during the night, would not suffer her to get a wink of sleep.

The King, more affected by this new distress of his daughter's, than by all his other afflictions put together, thought that in this extremity nothing better could be done, than to send the great officers of the crown with magnificent presents to the Oracle of the Cock.

The priestess of the temple received the officers extremely well, and their presents still better: but she informed them, that some time had elapsed, since the Cock set out to pay a visit to the great Caramoussal, and that it was only in the vicinity of Mount Atlas, that they could be satisfied respecting those matters, which they had come to investigate in the vicinity of Fourchimena.

Though the King their master was extremely vexed at this delay, he kept up his courage; and only allowing them the time absolutely necessary for making preparations for this second journey, he dispatched the

same ambassadors with three hundred elephants laden with presents of the finest chintz and linens to be found in his dominions. To give the embassy a still greater interest in the eyes of the Enchanter Caramoussal, he caused it to be accompanied by his own band of musicians; though (as those say, who have heard them) these same musicians are more likely to turn the heads of those who are not accustomed to them, than to afford them any entertainment.—"

"I was on the point," said the Prince of Trebizonde, "of telling him, that I could speak from my own knowledge on this subject; but my companion did not give me time, continuing his discourse as follows:"—

—"The Satraps of Astracan," said the Knight of the Awl, "set forward with their bales of chintz, their three hundred elephants, and the same number of monkies. They skirted along the boundaries of the Taurican Chersonesus, traversed the two Armenias, and at length arrived at a forest,

where they were very near being deprived of a great part of the presents committed to their care. I already informed you, that the three hundred elephants carried immense bales of the most beautiful chintz, that the universe could furnish: on the top of each of these packets was placed a monkey; though what the King their master imagined, the wise Caramoussal could possibly do with three hundred monkies, is more than I can tell you. However, whatever were his motives, he had commanded his satraps above all things to be careful not to lose a single monkey by the way.

The forest, which it was necessary to traverse in order to reach the place of their destination, was so full of deer, hares, and other beasts of chace, that they were obliged to have recourse to their music for the purpose of obtaining a passage. No sooner did the band strike up, than the animals scampered away on all sides, and vanished in a moment, to all appearance more alarmed, than

if all the hounds and huntsmen in the universe had been hard at their heels. However, this first success was shortly after very near producing the greatest of all possible disasters, by procuring for them an entrance into the forest; for no sooner were they in the midst of it (the trees being all either apple, walnut, or almonds) than the monkies, who from the backs of their elephants required only a single spring to reach the very topmast branches, as if by general consent, skipped away in a moment.

One of them alone remained behind; a baboon, the most noble in his manners, and the most elegant in his shape of all baboons, past, present, and to come! Unfortunately, he was so melancholy in his disposition, that during the journey the Satraps could not occasionally refrain from tears at contemplating the sadness, in which he appeared to be plunged. Far from skipping about, and imitating the tricks and gambols of his companions, he past the greatest part of his time in reading: if he was interrupted by any

accident, immediately he was observed to recline his head upon one of his paws, sink into a profound reverie, and then suddenly cross his arms upon his breast, raise his eyes to heaven, heave the deepest sighs, and shed such showers of tears, that the spectators found it impossible not to keep him company.

He had quietly resumed his book, as he reposed upon his elephant, while his companions scampered about the forest, making such a noise and uproar, that all within hearing were ready to go distracted. The caravan was obliged to halt during three whole days, for the purpose of re-assembling them: nor could they be persuaded to quit the trees, till they were perfectly glutted with all kinds of fruit. After all, the whole number did not return, for three died of an indigestion produced by eating too many almonds, and in a few days afterwards the gripes carried off three more, who had stuffed themselves with green apples. In this emergency, all that the ambassadors could

do, was to flay them, and stuff their skins with straw, in order that the number might be complete, which the king had charged them to present to the celebrated Caramoussal.

As soon as they reached the fort of the mountain, a courier was dispatched to give notice of their arrival, and to inquire, whether the Enchanter wished them and their whole equipage to set forward for his dwelling; or whether he preferred their making the caravan encamp in the neighbourhood, till he should issue his commands respecting the manner, in which he chose to receive the presents, with which they were entrusted.

At the end of three days the courier returned, and informed them, that Caramoussal was not to be found at the place, which he usually inhabited: he was in retirement at the very summit of Mount Atlas, a situation perfectly inaccessible to all of them, except the monkies: he concluded by saying, that he thought it necessary to make

thus much known to them as soon as possible, in order that they might determine on their proceedings.

Upon hearing this, the ambassadors resolved to leave the presents under the care of their attendants at the foot of the mountain, and to endeavour to reach, as well as they could, the place whither the Enchanter was supposed to have withdrawn.

They travelled during a whole fortnight, always going higher and higher by the most difficult road that ever was known, without finding any thing but rocks and precipices. At length, after having bestowed many a hearty curse upon the crocodile, who was the occasion of giving them all this trouble, as well as upon his Majesty's preference which had caused him to select them for this honourable employment: at length, I say, they perceived the road to become less difficult and dangerous, though they still continued to ascend. Here and there they found little vallies watered by delightful streams, whose banks were embellished by a

profusion of wild flowers. Arriving still higher, they observed birds of a kind perfectly unknown to them, and even small pavillions were scattered about in various places. At the distance of six hundred furlongs more, they found, that there was no means of mounting higher; and here it was, when they could see nothing above them but the clouds, that they encountered the far-famed Caramoussal.

He came from a pavillion considerably larger than those, which they had observed by the way: on one side it was shaded by an innumerable quantity of orange trees, and surrounded on the other by various machines sustaining quadrants, telescopes, and all kinds of instruments, which are used in contemplating the movement of the stars. He was followed from the pavillion by a man, whose arm was supported by a scarf. As the ambassadors were evidently in doubt, which of the two was the person of whom they were in search, the Enchanter advanced towards them, and inquired very politely,

what the great King of Astracan desired of Caramoussal? On hearing this, they prostrated themselves before him, as if he had been some divinity; for his appearance inspired them with quite another kind of reverence from that, which the report of him had prepared them to conceive. They expected to see the hideous form of a sorcerer, or at best some old man with a long beard, and bent double by extreme decrepitude. Consequently, they were greatly surprized to see a tall personage, who, though somewhat upon the decline of life, had still a most noble air and majestic figure, which was displayed to considerable advantage by the magnificence of his habit.

He immediately caused them to rise: after which they disclosed their business, explained the nature of those misfortunes, respecting which they came to consult him, and finished by enumerating the presents, which they were commissioned to lay at his feet.

After listening to them attentively, he conducted them (before he gave any answer) to a part of the mountain, whence the ocean

was visible, and whence indeed the whole earth would have been visible, if human eyesight could have stretched itself so far. They were quite terrified at the prodigious height, at which they perceived themselves: the islands, which rose above the sea, appeared like little black spots, and the largest vessels like so many floating atoms. It was now, that the Enchanter addressed to them the following discourse:—

—"I am far from being, what I am believed to be by the greatest part of those, who only know me by a reputation, which I certainly by no means deserve to have obtained. It is true, that long reflections, continual speculation, and perhaps the proximity of the celestial bodies, have enabled me to acquire great insight into whatever is most infallible in astrology. I will even allow, that there is less certainty in the answers returned by most oracles, than in my conjectures and predictions. Respecting that of the Cock, from whom they have referred you to me, or rather whom you have

been advised to seek in my abode, his divinity is henceforward out of the question: other cares and other occupations engage his attention.

—" Observe," continued he, " the distance between the place which we now occupy, and the billows, which break against the mountain's base. If the King your master could collect three certain spinning-wheels which are dispersed about the world, he might then possibly obtain a chord long enough to reach the surface of the ocean from the summit of Mount Atlas, on which we now stand. This accomplished, he would enjoy the completion of all his wishes: the monster would disappear for ever; the Princess would laugh and talk; and these spinning-wheels would spin for her a shift even finer than that which she has lost, and which she might wear without danger to either her appetite by day, or her repose by night. But as it is impossible, that the king of Astracan should ever possess these enchanted

spinning-wheels all at the same time, listen to the advice, which I shall now give him, in order that he may preserve his territories from total desolation, and may give the most lovely Princess in the world the only thing, which she wants to render her the happiest and most accomplished. Let him publish every where, that who-ever can vanquish the crocodile, or make his daughter laugh, shall be rewarded either with the hand of the adorable Moussellina, together with the kingdom of Astracan, or with the whole strength and power of the King her father to enable him to complete any other conquest, which he may have in contemplation. Should the adventurers fail in making the Princess laugh, they may still be permitted to encounter the monster; for whether they begin by the monster, or by the Princess, is a matter of absolute indifference. All persons, of whatever rank or appearance, must be allowed access to the lady; and once in two years she must not fail to make a journey of a couple of months, for

the purpose of exhibiting her divine beauties in the different provinces contiguous to the dominions of the King her father. Now then farewell, illustrious Satraps," continued he; "restore to the Sovereign, who sent you, the magnificent present, with which he has thought proper to honour me: Caramoussal desires no other reward for the services which he performs, than the pleasure of having rendered them."—

—"But suppose," inquired his companion, who carried his arm in a scarf, "suppose, the bow and arrows should be among their presents, or in the possession of their attendants?"—

The ambassadors, who had paid no attention to him, till he made this speech, now cast their eyes upon him, and were struck all on a heap at beholding a mouth so prodigiously large, that in point of enormity that of the royal Fortimbrass could not possibly exceed it. Caramoussal, without attending to their astonishment, prevented the

protestations, which they were going to make, " that they did not possess a single bow and arrow in the whole equipage," by addressing himself as follows to the stranger with the wide mouth and his arm in a scarf.

—" It is not so near this place," said he, " that you can hope to find the arms, which you mention."—

He then took leave of the ambassadors, who rejoined the caravan in much less time and with much less trouble, than it had cost them to obtain a sight of the great Caramoussal. As they had been absent for a considerable time, they ran over the list of their elephants, their monkies, and their bales of chintz. The numbers was found to be complete, with the exception of the melancholy monkey, who within the last week had disappeared; though in what manner, those, who had been left to take care of the baggage, were unable to say; neither was it possible to obtain any tidings of him,

in spite of all the researches which they made in the neighbourhood. The Satraps were much grieved at his loss, and still more at not having been at least able to find his carcase, in order that they might have stuffed it, as they had done those of his six companions. However, there was no remedy, and they set forward upon their journey homeward.

On the sixth day, after going considerably out of their way, in order to avoid the wood so fatal to their monkies, an adventure took place, which at first embarrassed them extremely, though it terminated very much to their satisfaction. They perceived at a distance several camels escorted by a body of men well armed. As the chiefs of the party seemed to be persons of consequence, and as they concluded, that camels so carefully guarded must needs be loaded with something singular or precious, as soon as they were near enough to be heard, they ordered the music to strike up in honour of

the strangers. No sooner did this infernal concert begin, than its effect was visible on every man and beast among those, for whom this compliment was intended. Above all, the camels flounced, kicked, and capered, as if they were crazy, and threw the whole caravan into confusion. In their extreme agitation they threw off their loads; and these in falling burst open the cases of certain lions and tigers, whose appearance was by no means agreeable to the serenaders; for they came right towards them, and some of the musicians paid with their lives for wanting agility in making their escape.

The elephants, however, behaved extremely well on this occasion, and the monkies extremely ill; for while the first kept off the wild beasts with their trunks, the second rent the air with screams of terror, and dirtied all the bales of chintz, on which they were sitting. It was at this moment, that the pride of all the monkies in the world appeared from behind the corner of

a rock, which had hitherto concealed him, and astonished all the Satraps by his unhoped-for arrival. He was armed with a bow and arrows. He selected one for each wild beast, and with an unerring aim pierced their hearts, one after another. As soon as he saw them all stretched upon the earth, he quietly drew out his arrows, saluted the Satraps, and then vanished among the rocks, which bordered the plain, as suddenly as he had made his appearance.

In what manner the ambassadors, and the escort of the lions and tigers separated, I am not informed. But it is certain, that the former, on their arrival at the court of Astracan, having delivered to their master the answer and advice of the great Caramoussal, the King, under the sanction of his council and with the consent of his daughter, caused to be published every where the conditions, on which all adventurers were permitted to enter the lists and aspire to the possession of the most beautiful Princess under heaven,

and one of the most powerful kingdoms upon earth.

Since this publication, Fame has carried the report of the Princess's beauty further than even the danger and singularity of the two adventures, by which her favour is to be obtained. She has not failed to visit all the neighbouring provinces by turns during a journey, which she makes yearly for two or three months. All who have seen her, either during her travels, or at her father's court, have found her beauty greatly to exceed its reputation; and the greatest part of them, seduced by the splendour of her charms and by expectations so brilliant, have endeavoured but in vain to fulfill the required conditions. Such, noble stranger," added the Knight of the Awl; "such is the occasion of our being assembled here, and such is the adventure, which your word binds you to attempt."

At the conclusion of this narrative we found ourselves on the banks of the river,

where my eyes were astonished by the most singular and magnificent sight, that I ever beheld."—

But the remainder of the Prince of Trebizonde's adventures may as well be deferred, till you read the second part of these memoirs.

END OF PART THE FIRST,

AND OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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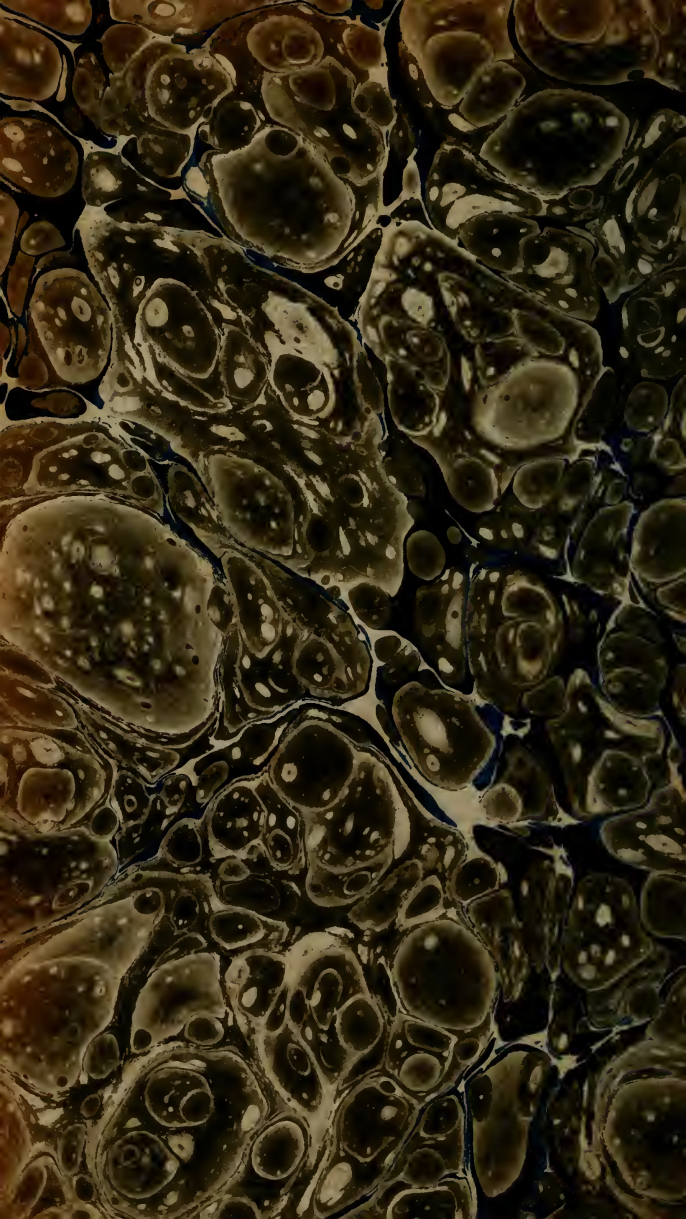

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